

Always mistaken for the tomb of a concubine, the Jingtai Mausoleum has an imperial story to tell.

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The new generation of Chinese filmmakers possesses fire and voice.

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This girl is the soul of a three-piece band.

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New Wealth on Edge

Forbes list puts spotlight on wary entrepreneurs

By Xiao Rong

In their attempts to cull together a list of the wealthiest individuals in China for *Forbes* magazine, Rupert Hoogewerf and his team were surprised to run into more resistance, and sometimes outright fear, than last year.

Nevertheless, *Forbes'* fourth annual list of the Chinese mainland's 100 richest business-people was released on October 25. Many were interested in seeing how the rise and fall of some tycoons in the recent nationwide tax dragnet would be manifested in the listing.

Yang Bin and Yang Rong, ranked second and third last year, fell off the new list. Both have been under investigation for tax evasion and economic irregularities.

Prior to the two billionaires' troubles, actress Liu Xiaoping, number 45 on the 1999 list, was arrested in July for evading up to 10 million yuan in income taxes.

As a result, *Forbes'* investigators 'got more doors than usual shut in their faces', claimed the magazine's report, with some candidates even threatening legal action.

Reluctant rich

Being ranked as the country's most wealthy seems to have become more a worry than an honor for some of the nation's new breed of private entrepreneurs.

Their unease is understandable in the wake of a crackdown on tax evasion launched by taxation authorities this year, after Premier Zhu Rongji brought the issue to national attention.

The storm began in March when the *Beijing Times* reported that of China's 50 richest entrepreneurs, as listed by *Forbes* magazine in 2000, only four were also on the list of the country's top 50 taxpayers for that year.

According to Gao Huiqing from the National Information Center, "Some entrepreneurs probably feel anxious about being candidates for *Forbes'* China Rich List, fearing they will become targets of local tax bureaus."

High-rollers from Guangdong province, which produced 17 of this year's 100 richest people, are worried about the negative influence having a place on the list could have on their businesses, according to a report in *Yangcheng Evening News*.

One entrepreneur who has made a fortune in the tourism industry and refused to reveal his real name, said his first reaction to learning he had earned a ranking on the list was fury.

Most, however, responded more calmly. "There is no glory in seeking a high profile. I'd greatly prefer to stay low-key and just do my business," said Zhang Hongwei, who ranked 77th this year with a net worth of \$95 million.

Most rich remain confident

Despite the fact that candidates were even less forthcoming than usual this year, Rupert Hoogewerf, founder and compiler of the China Rich List, told *Beijing Today* that there was no obvious increase in the number of entrepreneurs who refused to be listed.

"Most people don't really mind, they are relatively confident in their businesses and positions. Ten percent, however, like every year, were less confident or rather low-key," he said.

The reason for those candidates' reluctance, he speculated, was fear of public investigations of the sources and credibility of their wealth.

"We will not give up only because someone doesn't want to be listed. Statistics are the number one element," Hoogewerf added.

His team conducted their survey mainly according to publicly-available information such as media reports and stock market reports of listed companies. Traveling to all corners of the country over a period of five months, the team managed to contact every

The Top Ten of the China Rich List



1 Larry Rong Zhijian, \$850 million, infrastructure, real estate, marketing and distribution



2 Xu Rongmao, \$780 million, real estate



3 Sun Guangxin, \$600 million, real estate, building materials and natural gas



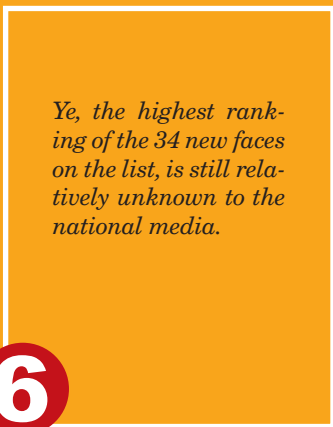
4 Lu Guanqiu, \$570 million, auto parts



5 Chen Lihua, \$560 million, real estate and sandalwood museum



6 Liu Yonghao, \$540 million, animal feed, finance and real estate



6 Ye Lippei, \$540 million, real estate



8 Liu Yongxing, \$480 million, animal feed



9 Guo Guangchang, \$360 million, real estate, pharmaceuticals, retail



9 Liu Hanyuan, \$360 million, fish feed and farming

Photos provided by Sina.com, Photocom, and Lu Beifeng

person on the list and many others by telephone, fax or in person.

"We cross-checked our information with local journalists, industry experts, the entrepreneurs themselves and even their competitors, to ensure the quality of our list," said Hoogewerf.

He then told the story of one entrepreneur from Guangdong province as a dramatic example of the varied responses to the survey. The businessman, who at first resisted being listed on the grounds he was not rich enough, called Hoogewerf's group on the deadline of the survey to express his desire to be ranked.

The reason for his change of heart was that he had undergone an audit of his holdings that showed there were no problems, and local authorities supported his being listed.

In Hoogewerf's view, the cases of Yang Bin and Yang Rong, as examples of the China's tax evasion problem, have no direct relationship with the *Forbes* list.

"Such issues are normal in a fast changing economy, just like the scandal of Enron, or Anderson. Actually most of the people on our list appear to be dutiful taxpayers," he said.

Public concern over taxes

Personal wealth of \$84 million was the minimum to make the cut for this year's China Rich List, a major jump from \$60 million last year, \$42 million in 2000 and just \$6 million in 1999.

That kind of affluence sticks out in this nation of 1.3 billion people where around 10 percent survive on less than a dollar a day and the annual per capita income stands at just \$1,100.

However, a chatroom opened on Sina.com about the list shows that concerns over the credibility and justification of the new wealth are top priorities in the minds of ordinary people. Around half of those who offered comments wanted to know whether the listed rich have paid their taxes and demanded thorough investigations of their fortunes.

"It's natural that the people ranked on our list will be put in the spotlight as to whether they made their fortunes by legal means," said Hoogewerf.

Quality of wealth

This latest list was altered to also show the amount of money paid in taxes by the companies owned or run by the ranked entrepreneurs.

The tax figures were part of an effort to determine "quality of wealth", which also takes into account number of employees, technologies introduced and social responsibilities undertaken, according to Hoogewerf. He added that finding exact figures for taxes can be difficult, because some industries enjoy special tax breaks.

Total taxes paid by listed entrepreneurs' companies last year amounted to \$1 billion. Wu Ying, 47th on this year's list, also won the honor of being the highest tax payer in the rankings, having shelled out \$150 million in taxes last year.

"We add the number of taxes paid and the people employed, not only because of the recent tax investigation, but more importantly, to develop a much clearer understanding of the quality of wealth," said Hoogewerf.

Hoogewerf added his goal is to open a window for the whole world to see what is happening in China's private sector, which makes up at least one-third of the country's total \$1.2 trillion economy.

"There will inevitably be people who say we are missing 'China's real tycoons', or that our valuations are wrong. These people may well be right, but it is our belief this list is the most serious attempt yet to identify the leaders of China's private sector, who represent the most successful of a new wave of Chinese entrepreneurs," he asserted.

City Taxman Sets Sights on Hidden Incomes

By Xiao Rong

The city tax bureau has tightened its grip on personal income taxes as a temporary detailed taxpaying rule goes into effect today.

Business leaders, university professors and other individuals whose annual incomes surpass 100,000 yuan are now defined as key taxpayers that need to declare the detailed sources of their income through an online form on the bureau's website.

This is a change from the past, when only a general figure for income taxes paid within a work unit were required to be reported, making it difficult for tax authorities to investigate the exact incomes of high-rollers.

"We are establishing a record of key taxpayers, though that list will change over time," said Han Lixin, director of the personal income tax department of the Haidian Local Tax Bureau.

There are around 60,000 key taxpayers now under official supervision in Haidian, home to the largest number of wealthy people of any of the city's districts.

Though individual income taxes have become the second largest source of tax revenues for the city, only around 10 percent of those taxes come from non-salary income, including capital gains or bonuses, the main source of money for the wealthy.

Han said finding a way to levy taxes on the non-salary income of the rich remains a major hurdle.

"On one hand, we don't know how much money they have due to the lack of a personal credit system. On the other, we have no legal justification to investigate their incomes," he explained.

As a result of their low tax-paying rates, wealthy people nationwide have become targets of public anger. Many media reports have estimated rich individuals made up less than 20 percent of China's population last year, but accounted for more than 80 percent of the country's 7 trillion yuan in bank savings, while contributing less than 10 percent of all income taxes received nationwide.

Therefore, it is not entirely surprising that some affluent individuals ranked on the *Forbes* China Rich List are less than thrilled about being listed, as it may unwittingly push them into the attention of tax authorities.

When asked about whether the tax bureau would refer to the *Forbes* list in their supervision of key taxpayers, Wang Jiping, director of the Beijing Local Tax Bureau, said the list can only serve as a basic reference for how much income taxes the rich should pay.

The list's rankings are based on individuals' net assets, while tax levies are based on the business conditions of enterprises, added Wang, so rich people will not necessarily end up being heavy taxpayers.

A *Yangcheng Evening News* report said that the local tax bureau of Guangdong province, home to many of China's wealthiest, would use the *Forbes* rich list to find clues for their investigations of some tycoons' real incomes. The bureau added that most of the Guangdong-based entrepreneurs ranked on the 2001 *Forbes* list were dutiful taxpayers.

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Government Targets Money Laundering

By Zhao Hongyi

China has further strengthened its efforts to counter money-laundering, a step aiming at attacking the increasing number of economic crimes and stimulating trans-border cooperation with security agencies of other countries.

The Ministry of Public Security announced last week that it set up a section focusing on

money laundering earlier this year. The new section is part of the one-year-old department for economic crime investigation.

"We'll inform the media once we have achieved progress," said a spokesman for the ministry who declined to give his name. He did not give any details as to when and what progress was to be achieved.

The ministry established the department for economic crimes

investigation, focusing on coordinating nationwide economic crimes investigation in 1998. The department also coordinates cooperation with its overseas counterparts for trans-border economic crimes.

The spokesman said that the anti-money laundering section has established a nationwide network attached to public security bodies at all levels. "This will enable us to do the work better."

The People's Bank of China, China's central bank, reportedly established a division for monitoring payment transactions and a division for tackling money laundering in July this year.

The financial and economic committee of the National People's Congress Standing Committee also proposed last Saturday in Beijing to include the Anti Money Laundering

Law draft in its legislation plan in the next plenary session, aiming at speeding up the law drafting procedures.

The committee urged the central government and its ministries to prepare for the law drafting. It is believed that recent steps taken by the Ministry of Public Security and the People's Bank of China are results of the appeal by the committee.

Insurance Market Granted More Space for Growth

By Zhao Hongyi

The 30th session of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislative body, approved the latest revised version of the Insurance Law Monday. The revised version grants more investment channels to the industry while requiring stricter supervision.

Scheduled to take effect in January, the newly revised insurance law indicates that insurance funds should not be used to establish enterprises that are not related to the insurance business and not be used to set up stock houses. The law currently stipulates that the funds may only be deposited in banks, or used to purchase mutual funds and treasury bonds, which has resulted in a bottleneck for the industry's growth.

Another improvement is the cancellation of the legally required re-insurance of 20 percent business volume to China Re over non-life insurance companies. Instead, these insurance companies should set the rate of re-insurance by themselves, which should be under the supervision of China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC).

The revised law also gives property insurance companies more freedom in designing their insurance products, such as health care and casualty insurance products.

Life insurance agents are allowed to sell insurance products from more than one insurance company, an improvement on the original "one agent for one company" rule.

The right of decision of the insurance premium rates, which used to be designed and controlled by CIRC, has been returned to insurance companies, although companies should still obtain approval of their new rates from the CIRC.

The amendment strengthens the supervision of payment capability of insurance companies, requiring companies to establish a full and timely set of payment capability index, improve the storage of funds for payment, and further clarify the responsibilities between insurance companies and their agents.

In the first three quarters of this year, the industry's premium income amounted to 226.3 billion yuan, of which, 166.1 billion is from life insurance and 60.2 billion from property insurance.

Analysts say the amendment is a great improvement, while pointing out that further improvements will be required in the coming years.

Guan Yisheng, a professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics, said the amendments are improvements to the old insurance law, rather than a thorough change. The law still combines insurance business operations and insurance companies structures together, which should be split up into two different laws for a more detailed clarification of responsibilities and better support to the development of the industry.

Market observers worry that the diversification of insurance product retailing channels could lead to irrational market competition between insurance companies, which could hamper a healthy growth of the industry.

Wu Dingfu, the newly appointed chairman of CIRC gave a clear reply to the worries and suspicions. "The only way out is to remove the obstacles in the frame structure of the industry, inject dynamics to the industry, and step up the growth of the industry."



Photo by Chung

The 16th Communist Party Congress is due to open in Beijing on November 8. The media center of the congress opens today at the Media Hotel, next to the China Central Television building.

Media assistants at the center are preparing press materials for the arrival of reporters from all over the world. Some 500 foreign journalists have registered to cover the congress.



Xinhua Photo

Olympic Projects Lure Hong Kong Investment

The sixth Beijing-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Symposium, which opened in Hong Kong Tuesday, is wooing Hong Kong investors with Olympics-specific projects.

The two-day event, held against the background of Beijing's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, is inviting bids for 12 Olympics-related venues and corresponding infrastructure projects, with a planned investment of US \$2.7 billion, said Zhang Mao, vice-mayor of Beijing.

Deputy Director of Beijing Municipi-

pal Development Commission Liu Zhi said, "This will be the first time for us to visit any place outside the Chinese mainland to publicize these Olympics-specific projects," adding that "The first five Beijing-Hong Kong symposiums were brilliant successes, as will be this one."

A seminar right after the symposium's opening ceremony provided delegates with a progress report on the planning and construction of the sites and facilities for the 2008 games and on financing programs. Models

and photographs of Beijing's Olympic Green and Wukesong Culture and Sports Center were also on show at the symposium. A total of 261 projects worth \$20.76 billion were presented at the symposium.

By the end of August this year, almost 6,500 Hong Kong enterprises had set up operations in Beijing. The contracted value of the projects totaled \$16 billion, ranking first among all countries and regions that invest in the capital.

(Xinhua)

Bids Invited for Stadium Construction

By Xiao Rong

Construction projects for seven stadiums and gymnasiums for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are inviting international bids, the city planning commission announced last Friday.

The seven projects are the National Sports Stadium (the main stadium), the National Swimming Center, the Convention Center, the National Gymnasium and Olympic Village, the Beijing Wukesong Culture and Sports Center, the Olympic

Aquatic Park and the Beijing Country Equestrian Park.

Domestic and foreign legal entities with strong financial capabilities and broad experience in developing, managing and operating public infrastructure projects are invited to submit applications.

Applicants are required to participate in a pre-qualification stage enquiry between October 28 and November 30, before being selected as the final tender.

Architects worldwide have also been invited to submit designs for the 100,000-seat National Sports Stadium, which will serve as the main stadium for the Games. Selection began Tuesday of about 10 finalists to participate in the second stage of the competition.

A multi-billion-dollar program is underway to build 14 new stadiums and gymnasiums, add 500 kilometers to the city's expressways and almost double the total length of subway lines.

Three Billion Yuan Stadium Awaits Public Bids

By Hou Mingxin

The Beijing Development Planning Commission (BDPC) issued a notice last Friday inviting public biddings for the construction of the 3 billion yuan National Stadium, which will be used as the main stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Located in Area B of the Olympic Green, the stadium will have a retractable roof, 100,000 seats, including permanent and temporary, 1,500 VIP seats, as well as VIP boxes. The construction area is 145,000 square meters. The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games said removable and easily

handled facilities would be a feature of the stadium. The total budget for the construction is put at 3 billion yuan.

Energy-saving designs, such as water saving facilities and new building materials, as well as the latest digital technologies, will be used in the construction, in accordance with the concepts of "Green Olympics" and "Hi-Tech Olympics".

BDPC is inviting domestic and overseas enterprises to take part in the preliminary sessions of the public tendering, which include quality evaluation and expressions of interest. Bidders should have

a strong financial capability and sophistication in developing, managing and operating large-scale public infrastructure projects. They can participate in the preliminary sessions either individually or in consortiums, according to the BDPC notice.

Four phases have been designed for the public tendering: preparing for the bidding, public tendering, administrative approval of the bidding results, and construction of the stadium.

More information is available at: www.bjghw.gov.cn or www.beijing-2008.org.

Swiss Design Wins Sports Center Competition

By Hou Mingxin

The Beijing Development Planning Commission (BDPC) confirmed Monday that a design by a Swiss company has been chosen for the construction of the Wukesong Culture and Sports Center.

The design by Burckhardt and Partners AG was chosen because of its better solution of the commercial use of the center during and after the Olympic Games, a spokesperson for

the BDPC said.

A brilliant point in the Swiss design is that one wall of the 220,000-square-meter center will be composed entirely of a massive TV screen, which will be the largest in the world.

The center will be used during the Olympics as the venue for basketball, baseball and softball matches. Other facilities will include those for cultural exchanges, amateur sports and commercial activities, outdoor track and

field venues, and training venues.

The BDPC said the center will be used for national and international sports, cultural activities, exhibitions and public entertainment after the Olympic Games.

Total investment in the center is estimated at 3 billion yuan. The Haidian District government is now inviting public bidding for financing, construction and operation of the center.

Mining Rights Opened to Foreign Investors

Approval has been granted to the establishment of China Mining Lianfa Auction Company, the first state-level company that gives foreign investors access to mining rights of the country's abundant mineral resources.

The company will begin business with investors from at home and abroad for the surveying and exploitation of mineral resources in China later this year, a company executive said Wednesday.

The China Mining Association (CMA) will be the principal shareholder of the new company, which has a total registered capital of 10 million yuan (US \$1.2 million).

Foreign investors can bid for the mining rights through their branch companies registered in China or joint ventures, said Wang Yanguo, president of the auction company. "It is time for foreign investors to have full access to China's mining market," said Wang, who is also secretary-general of CMA.

Wang said the company would take charge of the evaluation of mineral resources, the release of authoritative information and the examination of bidders' qualifications.

(Xinhua)

Jet Fuel Market Opens

China is to gradually open the jet fuel market and introduce competition into the sector in a move to help jet fuel suppliers cut costs and reduce jet fuel prices while improving economic efficiency and service quality.

Jia Changbin, general manager of the China Aviation Oil Holding Company (CAOHC), which was established last week, said the jet fuel market will be opened at the same pace as the country's whole oil product market.

Jia said that qualified jet fuel suppliers would be allowed to contract with aviation companies and conduct jet fuel filling business through public bidding or negotiations. In addition, jet fuel supply facilities at airports will be made available to all qualified jet fuel suppliers, but under governmental supervision.

The establishment of the CAOHC is an important step in the reform of the country's jet fuel supply system. It will set up a shareholding company and put the core businesses of the original China Aviation Oil Supply Company (CAOSC) under its control.

(Xinhua)

Alberta Seeks Education Exchanges

By Zhao Hongyi

A Canadian delegation led by Albertan minister of education, Dr. Lyle Oberg, visited Beijing this week, promoting the Canadian province's sophisticated and diversified education industry and seeking partnership in a variety of programs.

Consisting of management teams from secondary schools, colleges, institutes and universities, the delegation signed a number of agreements Wednesday evening on cooperation with Chinese partners in staff training programs, teacher and student exchanges and teaching program exchanges.

Delegates from the University of Calgary, which is renowned for its petrochemical industry and engineering studies, is seeking resources allocations for its "3E Project" — a newly established research institute focusing on the sustainable development of "energy, environment, and economy".

Dr. Dennis Salahub, vice president of the university said delegates had contacted Peking and Tsinghua universities to discuss academic exchanges, and PetroChina, CNPC (China National Petroleum Corporation) and CNOOC (China National Offshore Oil Corporation) to discuss resource allocation and staff training.

Railcom to Slash Staff

By Shan Jinliang

Job cuts are looming at the nation's sixth major telecommunications carrier, China Railway Telecom or Railcom, a state-owned enterprise under the Ministry of Railways, according to *China Business*.

The news was released last week by a senior official of the company who requested anonymity, and is a response to low production efficiency. Though the cuts will not be too extensive, they will affect the staff of all departments except the Office of Interconnection. Railcom has not offered any specific figures.

In a press conference held by the State Council on October 18, Fu Zhihuan, minister of Railways, said the problem was that work efficiency is too low for a company with 70,000 employees, indicating the redundancy plan has Fu's support.

Wrong approach?

"It will be hard to implement this job-cutting plan," warned Jiang Hai, a telecom analyst from Tianxiang Investment and Consultancy Corp. "The company has suffered since it was separated from the ministry two years ago. Job cuts now could shake the leadership of the company and cast a shadow on its future."

Jiang also said job cuts are "not an efficient way to help the company out of its situation", as they won't help pay the interest on bank loans.

Faith in telecom network

The Office of Interconnection, which connects Railcom's telecom network with other networks, is seen as a vital basic organization for a public telecom company, and the fact this office will not be affected by the job cuts shows the company still has high hopes for its public telecom network. Jiang said the move shows China Railcom still hopes to seize more share of the public telecom market, most of which has been taken by China Telecom and China Netcom.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Information Technology, China Railcom has only 1.1 percent of the market, a long way short of the figure the company claimed it would achieve when it was established. Analysts say the insufficient funds and lack of experience in telecoms has made it impossible for Railcom to compete with telecom giants like China Telecom and China Mobile, whose production efficiency could be 8 to 25 times that of Railcom and whose overall assets are more than 10 times those of Railcom.

Serve the railways

In the press conference on October 18, Fu stressed the main business of China Railcom is to serve the railways, a somewhat different vision to that of former president Peng Peng who wanted to develop a large public telecom network. The company currently gets most of its income from the telecom business for the Ministry of Railways. Insiders say if the public telecom business proves to be a failure, Railcom will have to sell or lease the business to China Unicom or China Mobile.

Air China Looks to New Skies

A new and bigger Air China took to the skies on Monday as one of its flights set off for the first time on the new route to Urumqi. As the biggest company under the newly regrouped China National Aviation Holding Company (CNAH), Air China has big plans.

President Li Jiaxiang says he aims to build Air China into the top airline in Asia and eventually the world. Turnover this year is expected to reach 25 billion yuan (US\$3 billion), he said.

Air China now owns 118 aircrafts, has 307 air routes and makes over 3,000 regular flights per week. A new Boeing 737-800 will fly to Beijing in a few days, the first aircraft acquired since the launch of the new Air China. The airline also plans to acquire 15 Boeing and Airbus planes next year.

Air China will seek a public listing abroad when the time is right, Li said. Its routes are currently being restructured with those of China Southwest Airlines and China National Airlines, which are also under the umbrella of CNAH. Air China hopes to broaden its cooperation with both foreign and domestic airlines and it is looking for a chance to join a global aviation alliance.

It's expected the country's biggest air cargo company will be set up soon, backed by Air China, Hong Kong CITIC Company and Beijing Capital Airport. (Xinhua)



Li Jiaxiang, president of Air China

Photo by Wang Zeming

New Marriott Hotel Opens

By Shan Jinliang

Leading hotel management group Marriott International has tightened its grip on the hotel market in Beijing by opening the new five-star Beijing Marriott Hotel West on October 25.

Located in the Hangtianqiao area of Haidian, it's the third hotel managed in Beijing by Marriott International. The company's presence in Beijing began when it started to manage the four-star Courtyard New World Beijing in 1998.

Ed Fuller, president of Marriott International, said his company is looking to Beijing as the next key point in its expansion.

Since the famous hotel group entered China in 1997, it has focused on Shanghai, where it has opened all seven of its overseas hotel brands. But with Beijing being awarded the 2008 Olympic Games, the capital is now seen as the place to be and Marriott intends to open more hotels here. Fuller added the company's strategy is not just focused on the games but on the long term.



Dai Xianglong, governor of the central bank announces the official opening of the Shanghai Gold Exchange by striking the gong.

Xinhua Photo

A Shower of Gold

The opening of China's first gold exchange here Wednesday signals the end of 50-plus years of government monopoly over the gold market.

Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, the nation's central bank, was the first to strike the bronze gong at the Shanghai Gold Exchange, located in a European-style mansion on the Bund, now Shang-

hai's prestigious financial street.

The first deal was done at 9:58 am, as the Shanghai Laofengxiang Jewelry Research Institute Co., Ltd. purchased one kilogram of gold from the Shandong Gold Group at 83.68 yuan (about US\$10) per gram.

Lu Xiaoyin, a trader representing Laofengxiang, said the price was very close to that of the London gold market.

Shen Xiangrong, chairman and general manager of the exchange, said that with the opening of the exchange, the central bank's function as the distributor of gold will cease, and that in a relatively short period of time, it will stop purchasing gold as well.

Albert Cheng, East Asia regional director of the World Gold Council, noted the opening will drive up world gold consumption.

"I am convinced that Shanghai will become the gold trading center of East Asia in the not too distant future," he added.

At present, the Shanghai Gold Exchange boasts 108 members from 26 Chinese regions. They include 13 commercial banks, 24 gold miners, 61 consumer units, eight refineries and two mints. Only members can trade in the exchange. (Xinhua)

Geely Swallows Subsidiary

By Shan Jinliang

Geely Group has reestablished direct control of Zhejiang Geely Car Corp, which henceforth will be a department of the Group, as opposed to a subsidiary. Coming just one year after Geely established its car business, the move has aroused fears that the low cost cars will soon disappear from China's market.

According to a document the company issued on October 17, the car company's employees will work in the Geely Group headquarters from now on.

Xu Gang, chief executive officer of the group told *Beijing Today* the move was intended to "show the emphasis we are

placing on this business." A press release from the group said the move was partly aimed at streamlining the management process.

Geely group established Taizhou Geely in 1997 and Ningbo Merrie in 1999, and began to implement its strategy to make "affordable cars for ordinary people" by presenting cars costing 30,000 to 40,000 yuan. In April 2001, the group merged Taizhou Geely with Merrie Car, forming Zhejiang Geely Car Corp.

To seize greater market share, Geely Car Corp. has continually cut the prices of its cars, squeezing profits. Industry analysts say the low profits and

poor sales of the cars forced Li Shufu, founder of the group, to take the car company back under the wing of headquarters.

Regarding the alleged sales decline of Geely cars, Xu faxed *Beijing Today* the June-August sales figures, revealing a 90 percent rise over the same period last year. But Geely and Merrie cars are still close to the bottom of the sales rankings in Beijing's major car trading markets.

"We will pay more attention to our brand image, quality control and improve management," Xu said. They're going to have to fulfill the ambitious sales plan of 18 billion yuan in revenue by 2005.



Li Shufu, founder of Geely

Photo by Phototcome

Getting into ERP

By Zhao Hongyi

The IT boom in China may be on the brink of slowing down, but one area that's going strong is the market for enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions.

Colossal multi-nationals and smaller local companies are gradually taking over the market, but for now, medium-size foreign companies are still leading the way. A Scandinavian company called Scala came here seeking refuge from the stormy international market, and has become China's ERP top dog.

Scala came to China in 1988, selling their products through a local agent. Scala purchased the agent in 1996 and started conducting direct market penetration in China, opening two offices in Beijing and Shanghai.

"We came here long before ERP solutions had really caught on in China," says Kevin Hurley, Scala's Asia and Pacific head of operations.

Created in Sweden in 1978, the ERP solutions provider found that things were turning somewhat sour in its existing markets in 1999-2000 and decided to focus greater attention on China. Hurley, who had spent four years on successful market exploration in Russia and the CIS countries, was sent to China at the end of 2000.

International Digital Corporation (IDC), the world's largest IT consulting and training services provider, ranked Scala top in terms of mid-range ERP solutions installation in 2000-2001 in China, a market with a turnover of \$48.83 million that year.

Over 400 companies, 95 percent of which are Chinese-foreign joint ventures, are using Scala's ERP solutions.

China's market is "super competitive"

Scala has made hay while it can, but tough times lie ahead. The principal overseas companies involved in the restructuring of China's massive state owned companies are the giants like Microsoft, SAP and Oracle. In reaching smaller scale companies, local providers like Kingdee and UFsoft are providing increasingly tough competition.

While multinationals control the large companies, small ones won't buy and install ERP solutions in their internal IT system unless they have to. And they are over critical in terms of quality and prices once they decide to buy.

However, even though China's market lags far behind Japan, Europe and the US in recognizing the need for ERP solutions, the market

is still growing strongly.

The local touch

"The key to success is localization, both of products and staff," says Hurley.

Since 1996, Scala has recruited over 50 local technicians and has adapted its ERP solution products for Chinese enterprises.

"We translate all our products into Chinese and modify our products for the professional requirements of China's accounting and managing standards and practices." It's the only way to hold back the rising tide of local competition.

It's still only a matter of time though, according to Peter Bornschein, general manager of Scala's China business. "Domestic providers can make the best solutions for the Chinese market," he says. "The bottleneck in their further development is the adaptation of international standards in their products."

APEC Realizes Trade, Terror Linked

CABO SAN LUCAS, Mexico, Oct. 27 (AP) - The agenda, as planned, was trade. The obsession, as expected, was terrorism.

But the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum quickly came to realize that the two most urgent issues of the age were really one, melting together as the interdisciplinary challenge of a changed and connected world.

In a new century rife with terrorism, filled with countries relying on one another's movement of goods and people as never before, leaders are finding it has become impossible to compartmentalize. The Earth's well-being, in effect, has become one enormous, daunting glop of a challenge.

"You don't have the luxury of saying, 'Oh, it's a political issue' or 'Oh, it's just an economic issue'

anymore," said William Bodde Jr., a former ambassador who was APEC's first executive director.

APEC calls its members "economies" rather than countries, terminology geared toward a crucial point - that money, not maps, guides this alliance. The message from members was clear: These days, all terrorism is economic.

"That's a fact of life: security equals competitiveness," said Lawrence Greenwood, the top US representative to APEC. (Ted Anthony)

Analysts' Take:

Wang Yusheng, former senior official of China to APEC

The most brilliant point of this year's APEC summit is the emphasis on the parallel between fighting terrorism and promoting economic growth.

The US emphasized its demand for more efforts in combating terrorism, protecting itself from attacks and damage in fields like finance, telecommunications, transportation. The other countries and members, on the basis of admitting the rationality of the US' request, stressed that securing economic growth is as important as fighting terrorism. Liberalization in economic development, trade and investment and the building of financial centers were all discussed.

A second brilliant point of this year's APEC summit is the issuing of the statement on recent acts of terrorism in Indonesia, the Philippines and Russia, which emphasized the importance of securing the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region. The official statement issued at the summit reads, "Fighting terrorism in the Asia Pacific

region is imperative."

The summit emphasized the importance of the harmonious spirit of the APEC community, which leaves no room for hegemony or terrorism.

China highly appreciates APEC's approach, saying it is an ideal formula and a must for economic and political cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. "APEC provides valuable experience for international and multilateral cooperation and dialogue," said Chinese president Jiang Zemin at the APEC meeting.

In addition, APEC is an official economic forum. It points out new issues and directions for multilateral economic cooperation, rather than just being a place for negotiations. Therefore, the direction shown and issues discussed at each summit can have great impact on the Asia-Pacific region's development.

Nasdaq Changes Listing Criteria

NEW YORK, Oct 30 (AP) - The Nasdaq Stock Market Wednesday said it changed the criteria companies must meet to be part of the Nasdaq-100 Index.

The changes, such as the minimum average daily trading volume doubling to 20,000 share and the appeal for more reliable financial statements, mostly tighten the rules for being part of the index.

Nasdaq, with nearly 3,800 companies listed, is the world's largest electronic stock market.

US Customs Duty-Free Exemption To Increase

WASHINGTON (AP) - The total value of merchandise that people may bring back to the United States without having to pay duty will rise from \$400 to \$800, effective Monday, the US Customs Service said.

The duty-free exemption applies if the items are for personal or household use or they are declared to Customs; if a person is returning from an overseas stay of at least 48 hours; if the items are not prohibited or restricted; or if a person has not used the exemption in the past 30 days.

U.S. Customs Service: <http://www.customs.gov>

IT Security Market To Double

Oct 29 (NewsFactor.com) - The world's IT security and business continuity market is poised to double in size by 2006, according to a study by research firm IDC. The report, released this week, predicts the market will grow from \$66 billion in 2001 to \$155 billion in 2006.

Security experts say the study results are not surprising, especially in the aftermath of 9/11. "Security is moving from what was once seen as an option, an add-on, to a very basic [requirement]," said Alan Brill, senior managing director of tech services at corporate security firm Kroll.

(Darby Mullany)

Citigroup Creates New Unit for Research

NEW YORK, Oct 30 (Reuters) - Citigroup Inc. moved on Wednesday to quell criticism of ties between investment bankers and stock analysts by creating a new unit separating investment banking from research and brokerage operations.

The new unit, which will still be fully owned by Citigroup, will be run by Sallie Krawcheck, the head of Sanford C. Bernstein, known for its objective research.

The move indicates Citigroup's desire to restore investor confidence that has been bruised by accusations the bank's research was biased to win fees for underwriting.

(Brian Kelleher)

PCs, Immigrants Fuel Boom of Little Firms

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 30 (USA Today) - The number of mom-and-pop businesses in the US is soaring on a wave of new technology and immigration.

More than 1 million grocers, tax preparers and other such micro-businesses sprang to life in 1997-2000, new Census data show. That was a 7.1 percent jump to 16.5 million companies, nearly triple the growth rate of all other firms. Such firms made up 70 percent of all companies in 2000, up from 69.1 percent in 1997.

* Technology: Inexpensive PCs plugged into the Internet make it easier to start part-time businesses at homes.

* Immigration: Immigrants are more likely to start companies because language difficulties shut them out of conventional jobs.

* Women: Half of all bachelor's degrees in business now go to women.

(Jim Hopkins)



Buses, Trucks Get Top Card at Tokyo Motor Show

The Tokyo Motor Show opened October 29 in Makuhari, east of Tokyo.

More than 100 auto and parts makers are participating in this year's show, which will feature only trucks, buses, and other commercial vehicles.

Major exhibitors include Honda Motor of Japan and Volvo Truck of Sweden.

The Tokyo Motor Show is one of the world's "big five" auto shows, along with those in Detroit, Frankfurt, Geneva, and Paris.

Last year's show, which featured passenger cars, drew 1.27 million visitors. (Xinhua Photos)



Trick or Treat!

A supermarket in London displays its stock of ripe pumpkins just in time for Halloween, October 31.

Halloween is a traditional holiday celebrated mostly in the US and the UK, but its popularity has spread to other western nations.

Jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins that are hollowed out, carved with faces and filled with candles, are the most famed symbol of the day. The night of Halloween is a favorite of candy-crawling children, rambunctious teens and adults who like to dress up.

(Xinhua Photo)

Global FDI Plummet, Favors China

GENEVA, Oct 25 (Inter Press Service - IPS) - China will surpass the United States this year as the number-one recipient of foreign direct investment, say forecasts released here Thursday by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

UNCTAD forecasts a sharp decline in the global flow of foreign direct investment (FDI), which this year will total about \$534 billion, a whopping 27 percent less than last year.

This year, FDI inflows for China will likely break the record with \$50 billion. Two years ago, FDI for China totaled \$41 billion. In 2001, it rose to \$47 billion.

Meanwhile, the US has recorded a continued descent, from \$301 billion dollars in FDI in 2000, to \$124 billion

last year, to this year's predicted low of \$44 billion. (Gustavo Capdevila)

Analysts' Take:

Jin Bosheng, director, Department of Foreign Investment, Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation

The reasons behind the forecast decrease of global FDI, first in a decade, include economic downturns and stagnation in developed countries, and the grim outlook for the world economy as a result of terrorist attacks and the US' insistence on going to war against Iraq. But the most important factor is the huge amount of FDI itself in the last decade.

UNCTAD's FDI figures, which amount to \$1.4 trillion in 2000

and \$735 billion in 2001, cover direct investment, huge venture capital movement around the world, and the huge corporation mergers and acquisitions that reached their climax in 2000.

China has a massive production capacity, which has clearly attracted investment in production. Venture capital has been withdrawn from the US because of the dim economic outlook there. The trend of mergers has entered a resetting phase after its climax in 2000. All these factors have led to a sharp decline in UNCTAD's FDI figures, both for this year and forecast for the next few years.

In 1995, the US absorbed \$50 billion in FDI while China took in \$40 billion. In the years after, the US saw a rapid increase in FDI, climbing to

\$300.9 billion in 2000 against the world's total FDI of \$1.4 trillion. In 2001, the US' FDI intake dropped 60 percent to \$124.4 billion, while China received \$46.9 billion of the global total of \$735 billion.

If the US's FDI intake decreases by another 60 percent this year, which is quite possible, the total amount of FDI it will receive will be under \$50 billion, while China should have no problem in drawing more than \$50 billion this year.

That is the calculating formula used by UNCTAD and the world's media, who have already declared China will surpass the US as the no. 1 receiver of FDI this year. But, whether that is true will only be clear at the end of next year, so we will have to wait and see.

European Markets Sink with Dow and Nasdaq

LONDON, Oct 29 (Reuters) - Technology, oil and autos stocks led a rout of pan-European blue chips on Tuesday as data showing a sharp deterioration in US consumer confidence pummeled sentiment.

The FTSE Eurotop 300 index was down 4.0 percent at 866 points, its biggest one-day fall in a month, while the narrower DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index shed 4.8 percent to 2,388 points.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average shed 1.7 percent, while the Nasdaq Composite index fell 2.4 percent. (Paul Richardson)

Deutsche Boerse to Scrap Neuer Markt

FRANKFURT, (Reuters) -

German stock exchange operator Deutsche Boerse said it will ditch the battered Neuer Markt growth market once touted as Europe's answer to the US' Nasdaq technology bourse to win back investors.

Deutsche Boerse said the five-year-old, scandal-hit Neuer Markt and the small-cap SMAX index would be replaced by two new stock market segments, a "Prime Standard" and "Domestic Standard."

"The Neuer Markt as it used to be, will not exist anymore," a Deutsche Boerse official said. (Marius Bosch)

Analysts' Take:

Harry Huang, Nasdaq's chief

representative in China

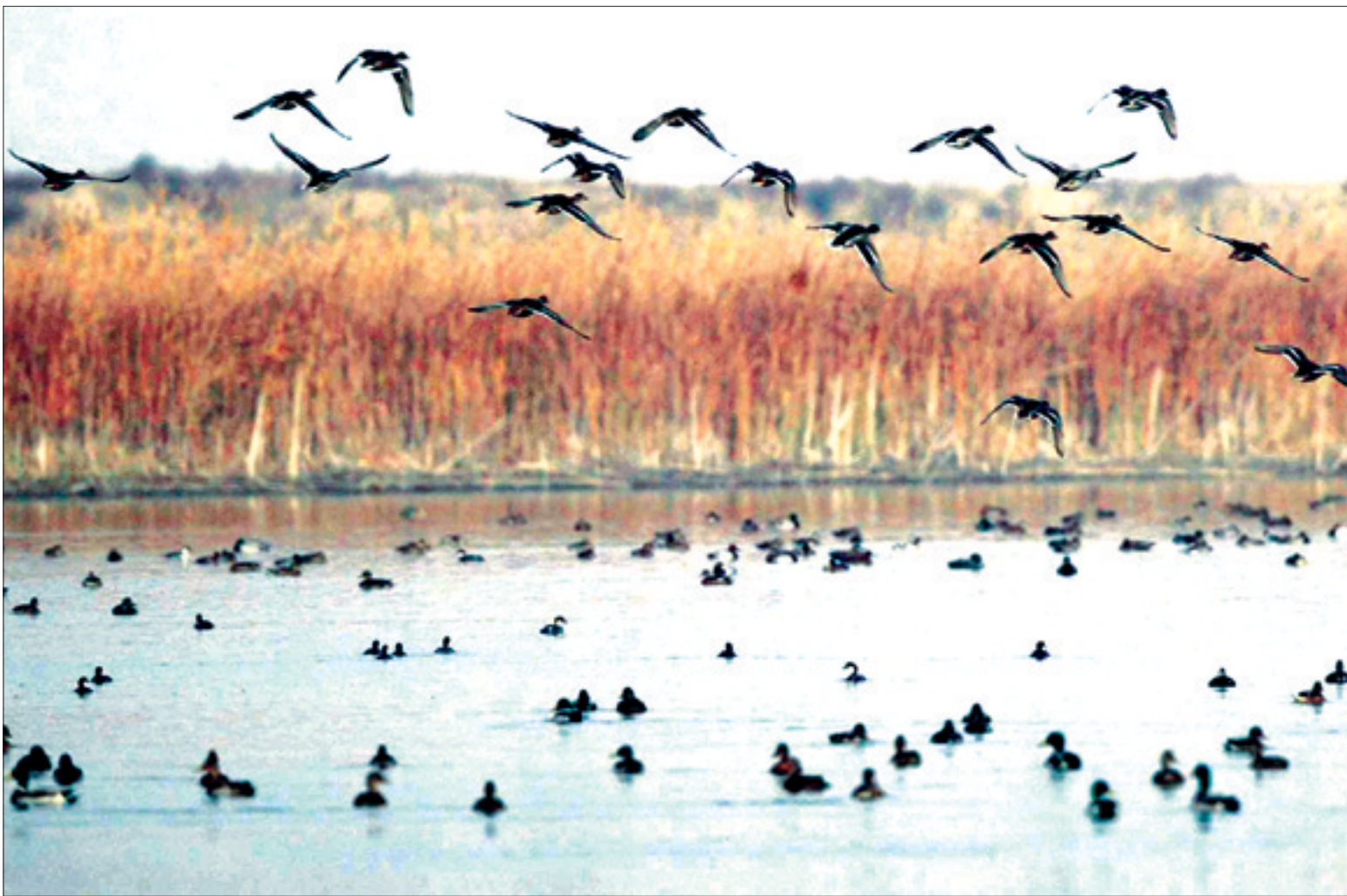
The reason why so many high-tech boards throughout the world's stock markets have sunk, including Nasdaq's withdrawal from Nasdaq Japan, is that, first, they want to learn from the success of Nasdaq but have not grasped the critical point of Nasdaq's success. That is the "market maker system".

A new stock board does not mean a new market framework like indexes, listing companies, transaction platforms. The most important thing is to attract capital to the market created. A Nasdaq trader can exchange stocks on behalf of hundreds of customers.

The widespread corporate accounting scandals have severely hurt investors' confidence in high-tech companies, which in turn has wrought deadly damage on high-tech boards, as well as on the traditional boards of stock markets around the world.

The shattering of the Internet-dot-com bubble reduced the capital commitment to high-tech boards. Huge amounts of money have been withdrawn from the market.

The US government's proposed war against Iraq has brought greater instability to the world market, including stock markets and high-tech boards.



A not quite bird's eye view of Yanqing Widgeon Lake Wetland Reserve

Photo by Mily

Migrating Birds Winter in Yanqing

By Shan Jinliang

Since the first flock of wild geese arrived at the lake on October 25, Yanqing Widgeon Lake Wetland Reserve has become a haven for migrating birds to spend the winter rather than flying further south.

Thousands of birds of some 46 species have been sighted at the lake reserve in the past week. Since

1998, when several dozen wild geese and common cranes spent the winter there, the number of birds cutting short their winter migration has been climbing steadily. Last year, more than 1,000 birds wintered at the lake, says Zou Jianchen, director of the Managing Committee of the reserve.

Abundant water and swamps, plentiful fish and flourishing

grass make the 9,000-hectare reserve an ideal sanctuary for migrating birds. The local government listed the lake as a county-level natural reserve, expanding the grass cover, increasing the water surface area and employing bird supervisors since 1997, which has had the affect of attracting even more birds. It also closed a number of pollution-

causing factories in the area.

Assistant professor Gao Wu, a zoology expert from the Capital Normal University said the most suitable wintering place for migrant birds were once in the south, but increased human activity has ruined the environment, forcing the birds to find other places. With good shelter, food and security, Yanqing is an ideal place for the migrants.



Land adjacent to Tiantongyuan is used as a garbage dump.

Photo by Chung

A Burning Issue

By Chen Ying

People who live in Tiantongyuan Residence Area, one of the largest residential areas in Beijing, received some potentially good news this week. They may soon no longer have to put up with the noisome smell of burning trash, which has been lingering on the air since the end of 1999.

The Beijing Municipal Administration Office carried out an action to control and stop the burning of garbage around the area this week.

Tiantongyuan is on the boundary of Changping and Chaoyang districts. The area to the east used to be a large-scale garbage dump, however backfilling has ceased since the local government decided to build the residential area in the end of the 1990s.

But some parts are still a natural warehouse for many trash-collectors. Migrant workers living in those areas make a living selling recycled trash. Much of the trash is discarded electrical and cable wiring, which can often be resold at a higher price than insulated wire. The trash-collectors burn the rubber layer from the metal wires during the night, causing a malodorous smog that takes several hours to dissipate.

Some 60 thousand people live in Tiantongyuan Residence Area, 20 thousand of whom are affected by the pollution. "Do our elderly parents and little children have to breathe this dirty atmosphere all year round?" reads a message left by a resident on the bulletin board of the Tiantongyuan Apartment Owners' website.

Beijing Shuntian is the company that manages the residential area. "We haven't the right to manage the region outside the residence area," said a company spokesman, surnamed Zhang.

However according to a document on strengthening the city administration issued by the Beijing Municipal Government recently, the right to issue penalties for the illegal burning of trash was granted to the Municipal Administration Department on September 20.

A spokesman for the office said the problem would be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Time to Gain Weight

By Su Wei

Losing weight might seem like a good idea for some people; "Shed three kilograms in one month" might be an advertisement for a weight loss program. But for dolphins and sea lions at Beijing Aquarium — stars of a special series of shows for last month's National Day holiday, it is time to put the weight back on.

The marine performers are now feeding up on black carp, which have a higher fat and calorie content than their usual staple of squid and Japanese fish with roe. "Black carp for dolphins and sea lions is a little like chocolate for humans," says Lin Haiying, the aquarium's veterinarian, "You can imagine how happy they are to have black carp for their daily meals."

"Sometimes we add vitamin supplements and Chinese medicine to aid digestion," says Lin, "We do not want them to suffer from excessive internal heat due to the delicious food."

The temperature of the water has also been increased to 20 centigrade in order to prevent any increase in their energy consumption. Although conceding that



Merlin, one of the dolphins at Beijing Aquarium, begs trainer Huo Xiaoxing for another black carp.

Photo by Jackey

the past October was hard for the "stars," Lin says the dolphins and sea lions are all still in good health and spirit.

Home Renovations for Beijing Zoo Denizens



The macaws still prefer their old tree trunks.

Photo by Qu Liyan

By Su Wei

The three and a half year old Siberian tiger, Jia Jia, is one of the inhabitants of the Beijing Zoo benefiting from a cooperative program with the Smithsonian National Zoological Park to make their living conditions more like those of their brethren in the wild.

Besides the tiger, a pair of red-and-green macaws and a couple of white-checked gibbons are also under the program.

According to zoo staff, the macaws still require some convincing that their new living conditions are better than the old. "They just stand on the old dried trunks all day, no matter how I try to get them to fly to the new branches with tender green leaves," says Zhou, the macaw keeper.

Abusive Mynah Triggers Court Case

By Lily Li

A man has brought a lawsuit against his neighbor over an abusive mynah bird. Li Deben of Qianfo Hutong, Andingmen, says he can no longer stand the abuse the mynah bird has been hurling at him daily for the past several months.

"Li bad! Li bad! You are bad!" Li and the rest of his family have had to put up with the foul-mouthed mynah every day from June this year. Li claims the abuse is a violation of his human rights, has damaged his reputation and caused him mental suffering.

The owner of the bird, Feng Yongsheng, raises birds as a hobby and failed to take actions to stop the bird's behavior, according to Li. "What's more, when the Residential Committee came to mediate, he refused to admit the fact that his bird abused me everyday," he said.

Li argues that the behavior of the mynah was instigated by Feng, who taught it to repeat the abusive expressions. Therefore, he says, Feng should bear direct responsibility for violating his rights.

In his claim, Li asked that Feng be required to apologize

publicly, and attach a letter of apology at the entrance of the building. As compensation, Feng should pay 1,000 yuan for damaging his reputation, and another 1,000 yuan for compensation.

On his part, Feng argues that Li just wants to make trouble: "Do you think we should use a bird to hurt others? Why not a recorder? I admit my mynah can abuse, but it's natural for my family members to teach a mynah some abusive expressions, just for fun. Li is too sensitive."

Feng added, "Everything will be made clear in the court. My mynah is a good bird. It says 'hello' and 'thank you' far more frequently than 'you are bad.'" He declined to answer as to whether or not he would present the mynah to the court as a witness.

The case will be heard by the Dongcheng District court next Tuesday, according to an employee of the court, Cao Ying. "It's the first case about bird in our court and it's not a rule that the mynah should be present in the court. Feng Yongsheng can decide what evidence to present."



Liu Decai on his stilts at Badaling Great Wall

Photo by Cao Boyuan

Elderly Stilt Walker Climbs Great Wall

By Lily Li

Visitors to the Great Wall at Badaling were entertained by the sight of a 65-year-old stilt walker ascending the wall last Sunday.

"We've seen someone flying across the Yellow River and heard that somebody tried to fly over the Great Wall. Is this old man coming to attempt a new record?" remarked two visitors from Shanghai following behind the man.

A group of foreign visitors exclaimed with excitement "Amazing! Chinese kong fu!" at the sight of Liu Decai executing a deft high kick while walking up the steep stairs.

Liu Decai from Hebei Province climbed almost 300 meters up the southern section of Badaling Great Wall on his stilts. Whenever he took a break, Liu blew a self composed tune on his old and shabby bugle, which he had been clutch-

ing tightly all the way up.

Liu said later that the bugle has a special meaning for him. He comes from Langya Mountain in Hebei Province, the setting of a well-known story from the war of resistance against the Japanese invaders, in which five soldiers lure the enemy army to the mountain to secure the main army force, at last sacrificing themselves to the enemy. In order to commemorate these heroes, in September 1999 Liu walked 15 miles on stilts to the 1,105-meter-high peak of Langya Mountain.

"When I retired, I had the idea of climbing the mountain on stilts. And after I heard about a boy flying over the Great Wall, I also wanted to try," he said. Not content with this latest feat, Liu says his next goal is to climb Tai Mountain, in Shandong Province, walking on one-meter stilts.



Mark Ulym (Holland), Xiao Yechen (China) and Sebastien Dulucq (France), 1st, 2nd and 3rd place-getters for the first leg.

Photo by Wei Tong

Bike Race Ends Today

By Chen Ying

The inaugural Tour of Beijing International Cycling Race ends today, with the first riders expected to cross the finishing line at Guoqi Square in Fengtai District at around midday. Starting last Saturday, 10 teams of six riders have raced a total distance of 732 kilometers.

The seven stage race, which started from Tian'anmen Square, passed through Changping, Mentougou, Miyun and other Beijing districts.

There are five national teams from France, Germany, Holland and Mongolia, and four Chinese teams, from Beijing, Henan, Ningxia and Gansu. The tenth team, organized by Beijing Youth Daily, is an international group made up of riders from China, France, Holland, New Zealand and Mongolia.

Hot for Teacher?

Shanghai school, students press teachers to wear light make-up

By Chen Ying

The pure oddity of this story may be why it has been the subject of widespread media reports and turned into a larger issue of debate.

The No. 3 Center Primary School in Hongkou District, Shanghai, has passed a new rule that female teachers must put on light make-up before they lead lessons. The school has also issued a new teacher dress code that includes clauses outlawing dyed hair and miniskirts.

The changes were sparked by a survey activity called "teachers in my heart" held among students at the beginning of the year. Most of the kids surveyed expressed hopes that teachers would take better care of their dress and outward appearance.

"Teachers look better if they have make-up on, but putting it on too heavily is not good," said a girl in the fifth grade at the school who did not want her name used.

A faculty member from the school's headmaster office who requested anonymity told *Beijing Today*, "After all, teachers have a tremendous impact on the learning environment of the school. Their manner and appearance are liable to influence students to some degree."

"It's just verbal requirement," the administrator emphasized, though the school actually has included some detailed requirements for teachers' dress in its regulations.

However, some journalists have called the rule arbitrary and unnecessary in reports published nationwide, in effect giving the small matter national attention.

A similar case took place at the Tianjin No. 113 Middle School, which before surveying students in March, did not allow teachers to don make-up, use red fingernail polish or wear shoes that squeak or otherwise make noise. As time went on, though, young teachers began to quietly rebel in growing numbers. Then, the survey showed that 92



Xinyuanli Primary School teacher Han Limin wears make-up in her classes when she wants.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

percent of students wanted their teachers to wear light make-up, and the school eased its restrictive policies.

The push for attractive teachers is not limited to China. According to *China News Service*, a large department store in the UK that operates 26 branches around the country has been carrying out a project to change teachers' appearances and style, providing free fashion consultation services for teachers to help them break from their conservative images.

Can such cosmetic changes actually have a positive impact on a school's teaching environment? Are questions of personal appearance only personal or larger? Opinions follow:

Li Fengqin, teacher, Xinyuanli Primary School

It is also recommended that teachers put on light make-up before class in my school. As I know, there are similar regulations in many schools in Dalian and Shenzhen.

As teachers, our mission is not just to teach students' textbook knowledge but also to

influence students' daily lives. If students are pleased with how a teacher looks, they are more likely to accept what that teacher has to say.

Unlike generations past, students today have extensive contact with and understanding of fashion, so they may have their own ideas of how teachers should dress. But, what is most important for teachers is the quality of their instruction. Teachers have the right to choose their own dress and makeup, but they should do so with a mind towards improving the effectiveness of their teaching.

Wang Ying, teacher, Dongzhimen Middle School

Though there is no such regulation in our school, there are some requirements for how teachers should dress. I don't think wearing make-up or not is related to teaching, it is a personal decision.

Whether they use make-up or not, the key for teachers is to be at their best in front of their students. If a teacher feels she can teach better with make-up on, by all means she should put some on. But for

others, it may be unnecessary. Just like everyone, if teachers get adequate rest, maintain healthy lifestyles and have a good outlook, they will perform well.

Han Shanshan, mother of a Beijing high school student

Many teachers in my daughter's school wear make-up. Though I agree that using light make-up could make some teachers look better, it has no direct relationship with teaching, in my mind.

Teachers should have the choice whether they put on make-up or not. Now even girls in middle school are doing so, though I think most people agree in disliking heavy make-up.

I guess this regulation is all right with me if the students pass their classes and tests.

Liu Wei, grade three middle school student

My school doesn't have this kind of rule, but I do like teachers who wear some light make-up — they look better. It's natural for people to like beautiful people, including teachers. Though putting on make-up is teachers' personal

choice, we students would appreciate it if they would.

The basic goal of all of this is to create a better impression of teachers in students' minds.

I guess I'm just surprised that the many media reports on this have made it seem like it is a big deal.

Gao Zhiguo, freelance journalist

For a long time, we always emphasized that internal beauty is more important than looks. It has become standard for women teachers not to wear make-up. But time changes everything, including standards of beauty.

Teachers face unique requirements on their appearance. What's behind these new codes is that schools are trying to create environments for teachers to show their students what they think real beauty is.

We don't need to be concerned about the particulars in the implementation of this kind of rule. From the point of view of development, advocating such rules is useful for showing the elegance and beauty of modern women teachers. So, no one should really have any objections.

Joel Kirkhart, American, copy editor

Good teachers are going to draw their students' attention whether they are well dressed or made-up or not. Forcing women to put on make-up before class is silly, and, to some degree, sexist. It's hard to imagine any similar regulation for male teachers, who probably also don't face any dress codes. Moreover, passing a policy like this will only reinforce, not work against, the kind of shallow judgment women have been working against the past century.

I remember from my schools that the women teachers we boys had crushes on tended to be the ones who dressed nicely and wore make-up, but those were not necessarily the teachers we really respected or actually learned a lot from.

SOUND BITES

"Gunfights between animal protectors and poachers in the protection zone have become a thing of the past."

— Li Weidong, an official with the Altun Mountains Nature Reserve in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, one of the three major habitats for Tibetan antelope in the country

"He used his songs and passion for life to motivate Hong Kong citizens."

— Dr. Patrick Ho, Hong Kong Home Affairs Secretary, describing Roman Tam, 57, the "godfather" of Hong Kong's music industry, who died October 18 after fighting liver cancer for more than a year

"Russia will answer with measures adequate to the threat to the Russian Federation in all places where the terrorists, the organizers of these crimes or their ideological or financial sponsors are located. I emphasize — wherever they may be."

— Russian President Vladimir Putin, leading a national day of mourning on Monday to grieve the 119 Moscow theater hostages who died in the original siege of the theater by Chechen nationalists and the Russian army's response

"It is creating poverty. It is creating more unemployment. It is preventing us from achieving the healthy goals our economies have. So this is a strong and radical stand against terrorism."

— Mexican President Vicente Fox, saying jobs and education are among the strongest tools in the global struggle against terrorism at the APEC leader summit

"If Paul Wellstone's legacy in the Senate comes to an end just days after this unspeakable tragedy, our spirits will be crushed, and we will drown in a river of tears. We are begging you, do not let this happen."

— Rick Kahn, friend and long-time campaign treasurer of US Senator Paul Wellstone, speaking out against the resolution authorizing President Bush to use force against Iraq after the death of Wellstone, his wife, daughter and five others in a plane crash last Friday

By Chen Ying

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Boys Behind Bars

Prison life of juvenile delinquents

By Su Wei / Xu Xiuchang

Strict dress regulations — gray uniforms for those under 18, blue for those above, crew cuts, and either green trainers or black cloth shoes — make it difficult sometimes to tell the young inmates apart.

The prison cells are simple, clean and tidy. In the one *Beijing Today* visited, there are seven double bunks.

On the blue and white sheets are neatly folded quilts. Framed photos by some beds of a smiling middle-aged woman, a boy riding a motorbike or an elderly couple sitting in front of a stack of wheat are the only obvious personal touches.

Under each bed is a plastic basin with a plain towel, a pair of blue slippers and a pair of shoes.

In the corner is a white bookcase, spotlessly clean, even though it is a windy day and the window is open. On the front of the bookcase is a detailed schedule, mapping out the inmates' daily routine, from getting up at 6 am to going to bed at 10 pm.

Diaries sit one next to another on the bottom shelf, alongside boxes of Chinese chess and playing cards. The second shelf is filled mainly with novels about both Chinese and western heroes, along with a few textbooks and technical books.

Three or four pot plants stand on each of the windowsills. "Some are brought by visiting family members," says Li Weihua. Li, 17, was jailed two years ago after committing four robberies within one month. He is due to be released in two years.

"Some are given by 'Duizhang.'" He explains that all the inmates are requested to call jailers 'Duizhang,' or team leader, regardless of their rank or position.

Li keeps his head bowed and his eyes down, ignoring repeated invitations to sit down until the guard signals his approval. He says they wash the leaves of the pot plants almost every day.

After the interview, Li carefully smooths the sheet where the reporter has been sitting and straightens the books that have been picked up and replaced.

Reform through education

The prison in Daxing is the first in China to carry out full-time schooling for juvenile delinquents. The teachers are mainly prison guards and some female prisoners jailed for economic crimes. (Currently the prison houses some female prisoners due to the reconstruction of the woman's prison.)

Classes offered are in three levels — primary school, grade one and grade two of junior middle school.

"Most of the delinquents are from the rural areas around Beijing and played truant when they were at primary school," says Li Baocun, director of the prison's education department.

"Classes at the primary school level aim to help them attain literacy. So they can write letters to their family."

Li says textbooks for the junior middle school levels are the same as those used in regular schools. There are five subjects taught in the prison: Chinese, mathematics, English, history, geography and politics.

"Only politics is taught by the jailers," says Li, "After passing a test designed by ourselves, the inmates who complete their study are able to obtain a certificate, saying they have taken the compulsory education."

"The only pity is that the teaching is quite repetitive," says Wu Yu, a 17 year old who will be released next year, provided he does not violate any of the prison's regulations.

"Sometimes few units are finished after half a year. It is because whenever there are newcomers, the class has to begin again."

Wu says he has learnt some useful things. "Green, red, orange, thirteen, eighty, one hundred,... How are you? Glad to meet you..." He recites the contents of that morning's English class.

Wu says it would be much better if they could learn how to solve problems independently. He gives mathematics as an example.

"The teacher just writes down the so-

"Aren't you afraid of us?" is Liu Wenhai's first question during his interview with *Beijing Today*. Liu, 17 years old, is serving a life sentence for killing a classmate in a dispute that arose during a game of basketball.

There are 380 inmates at the Prison for Juvenile Delinquents in Beijing's Daxing District. The high walls surrounding the facility are topped with electrified wire netting, and armed police stand sentry 24 hours a day.

Newcomers are told they should not regard it as merely a prison, but as an army training camp, a school and a home.



Attending the Monday morning flag-raising ceremony

Photos by Su Wei



A reminder of home



English class



Lunch in the dormitory

lution on the blackboard but gives us little explanation before going to the next problem," he says, adding that the first thing he will do after regaining his freedom is "go back to school."

Hu Jie, 19, sentenced to life imprisonment five years ago, says the certificates given by the prison read, "XX graduates with level of the first grade of junior middle school".

He shrugs his shoulders, "A 19-year-old with a certificate saying his education background is merely the first year of junior middle school..."

Li Baocun says it is difficult to recruit university graduates to be teachers in the prison, although working in the prison can help non-Beijingers to obtain permanent residence and a job as a government official.

"But the work is hard. Merely being warmhearted is not enough. They must love the job," says he, "Anyway we have some university graduates, including two from Peking University."

According to Li, the inmates are also required to take part in some technical training classes, such as computer operation and program design, motor vehicle, air-conditioner and refrigeration repairing, and photography. "These certificates are recognized by the Beijing Labor Bureau and Beijing Personnel Bureau."

Most of the inmates agree that it would be useful if they had some opportunities to practice what they have learned.

"Motor vehicle repairing is the second best skill if we were taught cooking or driving motor vehicles," says Zhao Xiong, a 19 year old sentenced to life imprisonment four years ago for murder.

"Such training means much to those

to be released soon, for at least they may not go hungry, if society does not discriminate against them."

He remains silent for the rest of the interview, until just as the reporter is about to leave, he jumps up and says in a low voice, "Could you do me ... us a favor? Could you find some places willing to teach us cooking and driving, and also provide some practice for us? Could you please ...?"

A big, happy family

The inmates agree that the "Duizhangs" are good to them, though at first they are reluctant to answer the question.

"Duizhang seldom lose their tempers, unless we really make them angry," says Hu Jie. He explains that only when they break regulations of the prison would they get into trouble. "Duizhang may also join in us during some organized football and basketball matches."

Hu says they are all aware that the prison should be like a big family. "We learn things that people may or may not learn during their whole life. After some time here, we are good at washing and sewing."

"I miss my mother and father," he suddenly changes the topic, "In order to not miss the one hour meeting, the parents get up at 3 or 4 am. I once could not help crying during the meetings. Now I know I should not. I never allow myself to shed tears when meeting them."

All those interviewed agree that the one-hour meeting is "too short," though they concede that much improvement has been made since 2000.

"I am sure that everyone wants to

win the right to spend one night with their parents on the eve of the Chinese New Year. But only those nominated by Duizhang as displaying the best behavior during the whole year can enjoy such treatment," says Wu Yu with an envious regret.

He says they are allowed to talk with their parents for ten minutes by telephone once a week. "How lucky that there is a telephone at my home!"

The inmates are allowed to shop in a supermarket run by the prison at least once a week with money given by their family and kept by the prison. The maximum amount they may spend each month is 160, 200 or 240 yuan, depending on their performance.

Some do not know what to buy. "I just follow others' suit in choosing food," says Wang Dehua, a 17 year old due to be release next year, jailed for theft at the age of 14.

"I do cherish the opportunity that in the evening we can share some food and chat."

Thursday evenings are designated "Psychological Adjustment Day." The inmates are allowed to dance and sing karaoke, which is seen as a way of releasing their worries and frustrations.

According to the prisoners, Thursday evening is an exception to the usual regulated life. An opportunity to speak a little louder, even shout, without worrying about breaking regulations.

They give few comments on their meals, which are simple but filling. Staples are usually two basins of steamed buns, twisted rolls and rice. Dishes include Chinese cabbage, green pepper and winter melon fried with some pork. "They have steamed buns with stuffing once a week," says Li Baocun.

Difficulties and challenges

The inmates all commented that they do not like strangers coming to visit the prison. "These visitors are just curious about what we look like and what we do," says Hu Jie, "Do we really deserve such attention? We are the same as them."

Others feel bothered that when visitors come, they have to stand at attention, no matter what they are doing.

But Hu reiterates that in fact all the inmates are eager to communicate with others, especially those "on the outside." "It is too early for me to know what happens outside. I may stay here for ever."

He seems to be right. The shorter the sentence, the more eager inmates are to know what is happening outside.

"I am so excited to hear my parents talking about the changes in my neighborhood and my family. A road was completed; a restaurant opened; a young couple got married..." says Chen De, 17, serving a three-year sentence for robbery and due to be released next year.

"I can not help feeling so excited when I think about regaining my freedom to study at school again," Chen says his parents heard that he might be permitted to continue his study next year.

"I heard such a proposal raised by the prison is under discussion. Maybe I am the right person: I'm under 18, have served half my sentence, and am a former full-time student," he says. "It also depends on if the school still wants to enroll me, but that is a big if."

He says if he had not done anything wrong, he might have had the opportunity to enroll in a university without taking any entrance examination, for his school is to merge with a key university and his former classmates are all guaranteed a place after the merger. "I want to leave now and go back to study," Chen reiterates, almost jumping out of his seat.

Hu listens to Chen attentively, making no comments, though his mouth opens and closes several times. Whenever Hu becomes aware that he is being watched, however, he turns away and looks out the window.

Lu Wei, though only five years into a 20-year sentence, is optimistic about his future. He killed a friend in a quarrel. Lu says he will finish all the subjects next year for his self-study exam. "I chose law as my major," says Lu, "It is easier to pass without anyone else's help. English is my weakness and few here can help me improve my English."

He says he cannot idle his days away playing cards or chatting. "I am so young I should find some way to live in the future," Lu says his parents love him too much.

"Like playing guitar and my mother once gave me 1,000 yuan to buy a good one. It was in early 1990. My father, a senior engineer who speaks fluent Japanese, once expected me to be an engineer like him, does not insist any more when I tell him I like music."

He says each time his mother comes to see him, "she gives so much money that Duizhang always think it is I that ask her. She believes I am still a child."

Lu says he owes his parents too much. "They are good and I really appreciate what they have done for me. My mother says she has become accustomed to saving 500 yuan per month since I went to prison. She tells me she has arranged everything for me. 'Do not think about your life. The money I saved is enough for you, even if you fail to find a job.'"

He says he does not know how to show his love and gratitude to his parents. "Every word seems meaningless in front of my parents. I am determined not only to live well myself, but to make them comfortable. Life for them is too hard. It is I that brings disaster to them." He chokes back a sob and clasps his hands together.

After several minutes silence, Lu continues, "I want to open a music bar, not for making money, but a place for friends to sit and have a drink. I have no ambitions. I just want to live quietly and happily, and make other feel happy. That's enough."

(Pseudonyms have been used for all the interviewed juvenile delinquents.)

When Is It Time to Let Go?

By Ivy Zhang

After years of discussion, China is finally about to implement diagnostic standards for determining brain death. But it remains to be seen whether the public will accept this controversial measure.

China's Ministry of Health has completed the first draft of diagnostic standards for identifying brain death and laws pertaining to it are being drafted as well.

According to *People's Daily*, leading experts from the Chinese Medical Association and the China Association of Physicians are also working on related technical standards and administrative procedures, which will form a foundation for the legislation.

"With these criteria, doctors will be able to halt ineffective treatment and reduce the unnecessary consumption of medical resources," said Huang Jiefu, the Vice-minister of Health.

Arguments for and against brain death legislation have raged for more than two decades in china. The traditional viewpoint says death is when the heart stops beating and doctors have so far failed to persuade people otherwise.

Time to move forward

Brain death may be a relatively new concept in China, but it was dealt with and agreed on in most western countries decades ago.

In 1959, two French scientists raised the question of brain death for the first time, based on their observation of 23 patients in deep coma. Their findings drew attention from all over the world. In 1968, Harvard Medical School was the first to implement diagnostic standards for brain death.

Since the early 1980s, the criteria for brain death have become accepted around the world. At least 80 countries now recognize the criteria.

Brain death is the irreversible cessation of all brain functions, in particular those of the brain stem.

Scientists in China didn't get around to addressing this issue until 1988. Even then it was another ten years before the People's Congress, the highest legislative authority in China, began to discuss it.

In 2000, China's first draft on the criteria for brain death was completed by Professor Li Shunwei from the Department of Neuropsychiatry of Peking Union Medical College Hospital. Professor Li lists four criteria, based on his nearly 20 years research in this field. (See middle box)

"Most countries in the world recognize criteria to determine brain death," Professor Li said. "China is such a populous country, we should implement such criteria as well. It complies with the laws of medical development and it follows international practice."

Reduce waste of resources

Another reason for recognizing the criteria is the urgent need to reduce the waste of medical resources on patients who have been pronounced brain dead and haven't a chance of recovery.

Vice minister of Health Huang Jiefu, has pointed out that China uses 1% of the world's health care resources, while its people account for 22% of the world's population.

"We must use the limited medical resources to best effect," Huang said.

Daily expenses for a brain dead patient could be used to treat a hundred normal patients in rural and remote areas where basic health care facilities are in short supply.

Professor Li told *Beijing Today* about one case he experienced seven years ago.

It was May 1st, 1995. He remembers the exact date because the patient was a well-known Chinese composer named Shi Guangnan.

Shi, 42, suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and his blood pressure read 360/160 when he was rushed into the emergency room of the Peking Union hospital.

Less than five minutes later, Shi stopped breathing and was brain dead. His "life" was sustained with the aid of a respirator and he lived on oxygen and medication for another 18 days.

"When we performed the autopsy, we found the cerebral cells were all dead," Professor Li said.

According to Professor Li, more than 10,000 yuan a day was spent on Shi to keep his heart going.

At present, the daily cost is about 200,000 yuan. The annual medical expenses for brain dead patients in China currently amounts to tens of billions of yuan.

"In the US, such patients can live up

to 14 years with the aid of life support devices," said vice minister Huang. "In China, there is no legislation on brain death and the concept of brain death is not recognized yet. Thus, the doctor is unable to pronounce a patient's death."

Change people's ideas

So why is there such resistance to the notion of brain death in China?

Traditionally, Chinese have been reluctant to accept the fact that their loved one is dead while his heart still beats.

"People simply haven't been educated about this," Professor Li said. "They fail to understand what brain death really is."

In August this year, an 11-year-old girl from South Korea who was suffocated during a fire in a hotel room was sent

to Anzhen Hospital.

Professor Li was invited to diagnose the girl. On the third day, the girl's heart-beat could be sustained with medication but, "all her other functions were gone. The brain stem was not functional," Professor Li said.

One week later, medical experts gathered together and pronounced the girl brain dead.

When they knew this for sure, the girl's parents, who had flown in from South Korea, asked the doctors to remove the life-support machines.

"The parents understood their child was incurable. It was useless to keep her alive in that way."

Professor Li does not think Chinese parents would have reacted in the same way.

He said too many people insist on the use of life-support devices even if there is no way the patient can recover. "They ask us not to give up the rescue as long as there is any possibility. They are reluctant to accept brain death, no matter how much we doctors try to persuade them."

On August 1 this year, Shen Xuhua, a 33-year-old CCTV hostess for the program Gold Sun fell from the second floor of Zhangshengji restaurant in Beijing and died 19 days later.

On August 18, Professor Li went to Anzhen Hospital to diagnose Shen with other experts. She was brain dead.

But Shen's husband, a senior journalist from Zhejiang TV station, took Professor Li aside and asked him to save his wife no matter what. "Please help me. Even if there is a 1% chance, I want her to survive," he said to the doctor.

"I can fully understand his feelings. His loved one suffered a disaster and he hoped she could survive. But the fact is that it was impossible to save her," Professor Li said.

Professor Li said that mistrust of doctors and the centuries old traditional thinking in China are the major barriers to the implementation of the brain death criteria and law.

"We should promote the awareness of brain death and use the facts to prove to people what we do is correct," Professor Li said.

Not for organ donation

Another reason for public skepticism is that Chinese experts on organ transplants have long been advocates for legislation on brain death.

Professor Qiu Fazu at the Law School of Beijing University said the continuing shortage of organ supply meant China's research in organ transplantation lagged behind that of other countries. If brain death was legally recognized, organs could be transplanted while still healthy.

According to a *China News Service* report on July 22, there are one to 1.5 million patients in China who need organ transplants. However, only 13,000 such operations can be conducted every year.

Nevertheless, isn't it inhuman to legalize brain death in order to ensure the supply of organs?

Vice minister Huang said that isn't the purpose of the legislation. Besides, "legislation on brain death would provide a better legal foundation for organ transplantation." He said if such a law was in place, light could be shed on organ transplantation technically, ethically and morally. And of course, yes, tens of thousands of critically ill patients could be saved.

"If brain death is legalized, many patients in critical condition could survive and get back into society. Do you know what Deng Xiaoping said in his will? He wanted to donate his cornea," Huang added.

Professor Sun Dongdong from the law school of Beijing University also thinks the suspicion that brain death criteria is being enacted purely to help in organ donation is misguided.

One of the main purposes for setting up brain death criteria is to preserve human dignity, he says. "It is inhuman to connect pipes to a lifeless body. It is better to let a person die with dignity instead of making them continue breathing hopelessly."

Ability to determine brain death?

Some say China is not ready to implement a law on brain death, as many doctors in China still lack the necessary skill, knowledge or equipment to correctly determine the condition.

But Professor Li disagrees. "The determination of brain death mainly depends on the judgment of clinicians. That is enough. The use of equipment just provides backing for the decision but it is not a must," he said.

Clinicians can draw their conclusions, he said, based on the cessation of breath, blood pressure and heart beat as well as lack of response of brain stem functions. "Clinicians are capable of determining brain death. That is the case all over the world. Chinese doctors are no exception," Professor Li said.

Vice minister Huang said brain death would not be able to be pronounced at organizations which fail to meet the necessary requirements. "The criteria can be implemented at some state-level or province-level hospitals first," he said.

(Sources: CCTV's *Oriental Horizon* program, *Beijing Youth Daily*, *People's Daily* and *China News Service*)

Follow-up Coverage

Is Pornography Legal

By Wu Sanmeng / Ivy Zhang

Beijing Today covered a story titled Is Pornography Legal in the September 13 issue.

We reported that when a young couple in Shaanxi Province were watching pornographic VCDs at home on August 18, four police officers came around to confiscate the discs. The police claimed that the couple resisted and the husband attacked one of the policemen. He was taken to the police station and was released on bail the next day.

The incident sparked a nationwide debate on whether the police were right to behave as they did.

The husband, surnamed Zhang, was detained again last Monday (October 21) by Yan'an Public Security Bureau, Bao ta Branch, on a charge of obstructing justice.

Song Chunhe, leader of the Baota Police Brigade told *Beijing Youth Daily* that Zhang was detained in accordance with normal judicial procedures and that the act was approved by their leaders.

"The couple did not violate any laws or regulations by watching pornographic VCDs. But the police had the right to confiscate those discs. By failing to cooperate with the police and attacking them with a rolling pin, Zhang was obstructing justice. A police officer was injured. Detaining Zhang is entirely in accordance with the criminal law," Song said.

When asked why it took so long to detain Zhang, Song answered the police officers have been looking into the case and collecting evidence over the past two months.

Zhang's wife Ms. Li has denied that they were watching the discs when the police came round. She admitted she and her husband had been watching a pornographic disc that night, but said they had gone to bed by the time the police arrived.

Thus, she says, there was no way the police could have seen them watching the VCDs from the back window, as the police had claimed. Moreover, Li said the four police officers charged into their home without presenting any credentials and one of the police smelled strongly of alcohol.

"As they entered, they intended to take the TV set and VCD player. We stopped them. They pulled our quilt aside and pressed my husband on the bed. My husband did resist but the police said he hit them with a rolling pin and that's not true. Why would we keep a rolling pin in the bedroom?"

"My husband was taken to the police station on bare foot and was beaten there. The police also asked us to pay a fine of 3,000 yuan. We begged them and they set my husband free after we handed in 1,000 yuan. We never expected that they would come and take my husband away again after so long a period of time," Li said.

The police have reported this case to Yan'an Baota District Procuratorate which will decide whether or not to issue an arrest order for Zhang within seven days. Xiang Yang, a lawyer from Beijing Zheng Ping Law Firm will defend Zhang in court.



Zhang's family wait to discover his fate. Photo by Zhang Xiaobin



When you're living a simple life, you have time and energy to get close to nature, where there are many inspirations.
— Xiao Juan



Xiao Juan is the soul of the three-piece band.

Singing For Dinner



Rehearsal at home



The band has won a loyal group of fans at Le Jazz.

Photos by Wang Wei

By Zhao Pu

The regulars arrive at 8:30pm every Sunday evening. Le Jazz restaurant at Jianguomen warms up as people come in and take their favorite seats. The weekly performance by three-member band Old Melody is starting to build up a loyal following. People even check which of the seven La Jazz restaurants the band is playing at before making a reservation.

It's obvious that the girl Xiao Juan is the soul of the three-piece band. She always sits in the center of the stage between the two men and is the lead singer. Her husband Li Qiang plays guitar and flute, and their friend Yu Zhou is the drummer.

A young voice

Xiao Juan was the apple of everybody's eyes in her family in Wuhan when she was a little kid. Her two elder sisters, both more than 10 years older than she is, were in middle school when she was born. Being the doted-on youngest child, the carefree, optimistic personality she developed would help her in the testing times ahead.

"I began singing at the age of one," she says proudly. When she was one and a half years old, she could imitate songs she heard from the radio. She was known as the little singer by neighbors. "But my childhood ideal had nothing to do with singing. I told my mother that I wished to sell ice cream when I grew up," she says. "Then I could eat them to my heart's content. My mother pointed out the business wouldn't last too long."

Besides selling ice cream, she had another childhood dream. "I remember a girl from Hong Kong visiting a neighbor of ours when I was in elementary school. She seemed as beautiful as an angel to me, with her long hair and flowery long skirt. I wanted to be as beautiful as her." Xiao Juan

soon forgot about ice cream.

After she entered college in 1989, Xiao Juan started to take part in various singing contests in Wuhan. The first was a one-hundred-singer contest arranged by a local television station. The song she performed was *Tears of a Dancing Girl*. She didn't understand the song so well, as it was too remote from her life as a college student. But she decided to give it a bit of drama by crying a little on stage. Goody and sentimental, perhaps, but it did the trick. "Many people from the audience called to say how touched they were by my performance. Actually I was just forcing myself to think of some sad things to generate the tears," she laughed. She came seventh, a pretty good result for her debut. "I was the only amateur in the top ten singers at the contest; the others were all musical majors, whereas I majored in accounting."

After that, Xiao Juan started to attend more singing contests and she got to perform on television programs. The pinnacle of her early fame came in 1989 when she was asked to be a singer for the godfather of Chinese rock and roll, Cui Jian, at his concert in Wuhan. "I didn't know so much about him at that time so I wasn't overawed," Xiao Juan recalls. She even proposed singing a pop song from Hong Kong with him and was a little miffed by Cui Jian's dismissive response. "He asked me to sing his song *Speculator* with him and I did so reluctantly as it seemed that I had no choice."

Her cooperation with Cui Jian and his band was appreciated however, and she was even asked for autographs from his crazy fans after the concert. Cui's band also invited her to accompany them on a trip to Beijing, so she came to the capital for the first time in 1989.



Memories of earlier years hang on the wall of their new home.

Steamed bread period

In 1993 Xiao Juan came to live in Beijing after she met Li Qiang, who worked as a tuner in a music studio. They got married and rented a small room in a courtyard in Yuanmingyuan Park. Li's monthly salary was 200 yuan at that time, and the rent took up three quarters of it. After paying the rent, the couple had only 50 yuan left. That had to cover all their monthly costs.

They barely had enough money to buy food. "The best food at that time was steamed bread. We ate it with sugar, it was delicious," says Xiao Juan. But sometimes they couldn't even afford to buy steamed bread which was 1.25 yuan per *jin*. Li would go to the food stand and ask to get some steamed bread on credit. The owner of the food stand was a young girl and she was generous to them, giving them the steamed bread without payment.

Life was hard, but simple and happy. "I didn't think too much at that time, I just knew that I was happy living with the man I loved, and that was enough," says Xiao Juan. Everyday, she went to a nearby area of the

park to practice singing, and one of their landlord's seven dogs would follow her to protect her. She would sing for a while and then just stand there basking in the sunshine. She wrote some songs which reflected her uncomplicated life. "When you're living a simple life, you have time and energy to get close to nature, where there are many inspirations," she says.

The songs she wrote at that time conjure up romantic memories, despite the sometimes dubious circumstances. The inspiration for one of them, *Sunset Glow*, came when she was waiting for her husband outside a public toilet. "It sounds funny but I was deeply impressed by the beautiful sunset while I was waiting," she says. *Hide-and-seek Moon* was composed one evening after she had quarreled with her husband. "I was sitting in the courtyard, feeling angry with him. And the trees swayed in the breeze, hiding and then showing the moon. Everything was gentle as though it was all trying to soothe me."

The place they lived was known as a "painters village" in Haidian, as many young painters from all over the country lived there. The musician couple were peculiar in such a village but they got along well with their avant-garde neighbors. When the local artists produced installations or other exhibitions, they would invite Xiao Juan to sing for them. "I didn't quite understand the art they produced, it was just funny and strange to me," she says.

In 1995, a friend got them a gig at a newly opened bar named Lieqimen in Haidian District. They appeared at the bar as a duo, and have since been known as Old Melody band. Yu Zhou joined them as the drummer in 1998.

Moving on up

Half a year ago, Xiao Juan and her husband moved to Tongzhou District to be closer to the Moon River Resort where they perform from Monday to Saturday. Seven years after moving to Yuanmingyuan, they had finally saved up enough money to buy their own apartment in a newly built residential zone.

Xiao Juan loves sitting on the balcony of their new home, drinking tea and listening to old songs. "We finally have a home of our own, but still the happiest time of my life was when we lived in that small room in Yuanmingyuan Park," she says.

Last Sunday, they held an anniversary party at Le Jazz in celebration of their four years of performing at its various branches. They have won a loyal group of fans who come to every performance of theirs. Xiao Juan says she has built up a knowing rapport with her audience. "They often greet me with a smile or a nod, and I'll smile back."

There's a five-year-old girl named Duo Duo, who always comes to Le Jazz to see Xiao Juan sing. Every time, she gives Xiao Juan a special kind of groupie gift: one of her favorite toys. "She sits in the front row from the beginning to the end for three hours, smiling to me," says Xiao Juan.

Sixty percent of the songs they sing are old English songs, and the rest are Chinese songs including some written by Xiao Juan herself. "We would like to introduce more of these beautiful English songs to our listeners," she says.

Three Thousand More Years of Cultural History

By Xinhua and Sun Yan

A report on the Dadiwan relic site sheds new light on aspects of ancient Chinese history, according to a researcher from the Archaeological Study Institute of Gansu Province.

Lang Shude says relics from Dadiwan, in Qin'an County, Gansu Province, prove that Chinese cultural history dates back more than 3,000 years earlier than previously supposed.

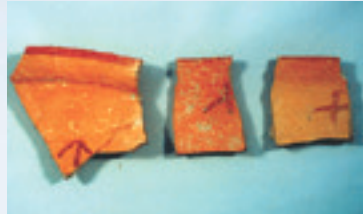
Earliest evidence

Petrified millet specimens, the earliest dry land crop specimens unearthed in China, show that dry land crops in the north of China date back some 1,000 years earlier than once thought. They also provide evidence that millet was the earliest crop grown in the north of China.

Around 200 pieces of 8,000-year-old painted pottery are the earliest found such pieces in China, predating relics excavated in the Banpo relic site at Xi'an, by some 1,000 years.

Archaeologists have declared the remains of a 5,000-year-old building unearthed at the site to be the earliest known royal palace in China.

The earliest known "concrete" base was found in this palace. Similar to modern cement, it consists of broken stones and gravel. Along with the cement made by the ancient Romans, this is the earliest known



Three pieces of painted pottery with symbols, probably rudimentary Chinese characters.

concrete in the world.

An indoor floor painting in black charcoal, dating back more than 5,000 years, is preserved in good condition in the palace, tracing the history of the art back a further 2,000 years.

Painted pottery

Early last century, western archaeologists believed that Chinese painted pottery had its origins in western cultures. The relics unearthed at the Dadiwan site disprove this theory.

Some 200 articles of painted pottery pieces, including a three-legged earthen bowl, were discovered in the first section of the 8,000-year-old relic site. These are the earliest painted potteries found so far in China. Six thousand year ago was the second section



Archaeologist's impression of the ancient people's way of life.

Head-shaped painted pottery vase, dating back 6,000 years.

Photos by Liang Qiang



Site of the 5,000-year-old palace.



Painted basin with fish design, 51 cm in diameter.

of Dadiwan culture. Painted pottery technology was developed enormously. A 31.8-centimeter pottery vase painted with a human head design is considered one of the most important of the finds from the period. A set of round-bottom pottery basins decorated with a fish design is also remarkable. The largest of these is 51 centimeters in diameter.

Prehistoric great hall

Among the 240 houses ruins, Room F 901 is considered to be the greatest in terms of prehistoric architectural significance. The structure, which shows certain similarities with modern building techniques, has puzzled archaeologists as to how such a primitive tribe managed to finish it without metal tools. The floor of the main room of this building is as flat and bright as those made with cement nowadays.

By sifting through the ashes of a 10-centimeter-deep pit in the main room, archaeologists determined that the room served as a meeting hall for ancient tribal leaders.

From rural to urban

"Dadiwan is the only relic site that tells of the whole evolutionary process of a primitive tribe," says Lang Shude. The site provides the

earliest evidence showing the transition of a Chinese prehistoric tribe from rural to agriculture-based urban communities.

During the first excavation, archaeologists found four small, round houses with typical characteristics of a primitive society.

According to Lang Shude, together with about ten more relics sites found in recent years, excavation at the Dadiwan relic site attests that the cultural history of China can be traced back more than 8,000 years. It further proves that agriculture and pottery making started in China as early as it did in the Tigris and Euphrates area.

Dadiwan Relic Site

The Dadiwan relic site is in Qin'an County, Gansu Province. It covers a total area 1,100 square kilometers.

Discovered in 1958, there have been two major excavations at the site since 1978, which have unearthed 240 house ruins, 98 cooking pits ruins, 325 ash and storage pits, 71 tombs, 35 kiln ruins and 12 sections of ditch. Numerous pieces of pottery, stone implements, and jade articles have also been found.

Dadiwan culture spanned a period from 8,000 to 5,000 years ago and the find has had a tremendous influence on the research of the Neolithic culture of the Yellow River area and the origins of Chinese culture.

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Spring Subway, Zhang Yibai

Fresh New Wave Hits Theaters

By Xinhua / Yu Shanshan

After a short period of seeming inactivity, the domestic film industry underwent a near revolution in the past two years with the emergence of no less than 21 new Chinese directors. This new generation, instead of trying to revolutionize the way movies are made, seem more interested in having their diverse voices heard, and to some degree, have met with success.

First efforts but no greenhorns

Actress Xu Jinglei, stage director Meng Jinghui, comic actor Huang Hong, MTV director Zhang Yibai, and former soldier Meng Qi, not one a graduate of film school, are among the unusual figures in this new crop of movie directors.

"There has been great public surprise about these films, but that is because many people have little knowledge about domestic film circles," said Zhao Ningyu of the Beijing Broadcasting Institute, "Historically, not that many directors have actually graduated from directing departments at film schools." For example, among the famed "fifth generation" of Chinese filmmakers, only Chen Kaige received a degree in directing.

Most of these new directors are young, but do not lack fire or a voice. Superstar actor and director Jiang Wen holds that moviemaking is mostly the realm of younger people. "Youthful indignation has long been a source of energy behind great

work," he said after seeing Meng Jinghui's *Chicken Poet*.

Some attribute the young directors' new styles to their greater exposure to movies, domestic and foreign. Zhang Yiwu, a professor at Beijing University said, "They are a generation that grew up watching discs, mostly VCDs, allowing them to touch and become obsessed with movies."

While reminiscent of the 28 debut pictures and 34 new movie directors that emerged from 1978 to 1979, directors in this new wave are often more experienced than their predecessors, having worked in TV series, such as Teng Huatao, director of *100 Times*, or in the fields of screenwriting, cinematography, art design, production and acting.

Shocking, profound, or just pretentious?

This stream of maiden movies has taken a nibble into the box office receipts of more mainstream cinematic fare, yet most of the directors remain critically acclaimed but commercially invisible.

Yin Hong, professor at the Center for Film and Television Studies, Tsinghua University, described the new wave of directors as like fresh air in Chinese film. They are devoted to individual feelings, enjoy breaking up traditional linear narrative structure, and are seeking an aesthetic style that has strong moods and heavy emotional impact.

Moreover, all the directors are trained moviemakers that seem to have far more interest in their craft than in mixing

with common people, explaining why some viewers have felt their films to be distant or difficult. The very notion of this kind of dissonant counterculture, as embodied by the movie as *Chicken Poet*, which is imbued with many heavy ideas, may be beyond the reach of the average audience. "I knew the film would be pitching some very deep thoughts," joked one audience viewer who requested anonymity, "but there were more crazy ideas than my ordinary brain could handle."

Critics seem to be encouraged by the directors' emergence, but not so encouraging about their work. A critique in *Beijing Youth Daily* panned *Chicken Poet* as being "full of petty bourgeoisie tastes. Its depiction of the collapse of ideals and disillusionment and grave mental agony are both totally narcissistic. The sincerity behind the movie is questionable."

The box office dilemma: wealth or worth?

Funding was one of the greatest obstacles for these filmmakers, most of whom found luck in 2001, receiving an average of 2 million yuan to shoot their films. That wellspring of funding led to the spread of "youth culture" and "debut" labels on movies in 2001 and 2002.

Another reason why so many films came out in those years is that some works already completed but held back by censors were released.

"With movies, it used to be either you made it big or you

ended up just showing it to your friends," said Paul Capelloi, an Amazon spokesman, when American moviemakers eyed the Net as a new avenue. Young Chinese moviemakers today dwell in a similar uneasy shadowland somewhere between the box-office smash and the circular file.

Audiences for Meng Qi's moving *My Favorite Snowy Day* were restricted to those that saw it at the Beijing Student Film Festival, while neither Huang Hong's *A Father with His 25 Children* and Meng Jinghui's *Chicken Poet* are on the marquees of most Beijing theatres, even though both have won domestic and international awards and acclaim. Beijing Bo Na Culture Co., distributor *The Missing Gun*, *TV Boy*, *Angels Never Feel Lonely* and Yu Zhong's *Roots and Branches*, which brought in 20 million yuan, reported that was the only film of the four not to lose money during distribution.

"As long as they just tell sub-par stories, have very artistic styles, and show no acknowledgement of the market, don't expect any of these new movies to be smashes at the box-office," said Yu Dong, vice general manager of Bo Na Culture.

These new movies are prototypes of Chinese films that may be able to stand up to Hollywood and Hong Kong products while maintaining an artistic edge. While their fate is unclear, one thing is certain — wherever this new wave is headed, for good or ill, it is not back towards the late '70s.



Chicken Poet, Meng Jinghui



Roots & Branches, Yu Zhong



My Favorite Snowy Day, Meng Qi



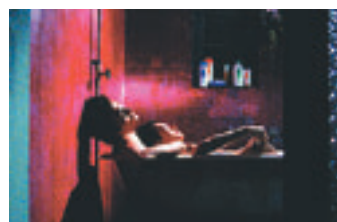
Gone is the Person Who Loves Me Most, Ma Xiaoying



A Dream of Youth, Jacky Zhao



A Father with His 25 Children, Huang Hong



Spring Subway, Zhang Yibai

Students Hope to Leave Print of Perseverance

By Zhu Lin

Six juniors of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, following the low-key debut of their innovative works outside of school, seemed encouraged by their exhibition, despite its lukewarm response. "What the Chinese print art circle lacks most is a sense of artistic perseverance, and this exhibition is one step towards creating a spirit," said Huang Keyi, one of the exhibitors.

The show of prints by the students was held at the Millennium Art Center and quietly ended this Monday. *Green Fruits*, the name of the exhibition, spoke to the students' character — young, thirsty and full of potential.

All six artists agree that the situation of printmaking in China is not rosy. "Most printmakers do not have the patience or courage to enter the market," explained Huang. "They either don't believe there is a market for their art, or they aren't willing to adapt to market tastes. Thus their art strays from reality, and many artists move to other kinds of art or fields."

Some art historians say printing in China can be traced back to the Nanbei Dynasty (420-589 A.D.). The art-form reached its pinnacle during the Ming and Qing dynasties, but then slowed down dramatically. While the art developed quickly in western countries with the improvement of related technology, China was far left behind.

Today most art schools in China have printmaking departments, but the art is kept among a small academic circle, obscured from popularity and the market. Few collectors go for prints, preferring traditional Chinese paintings or oil paintings.

The young exhibitors seem to know what they are up against. The works of Zhang Zhandi looked unfinished, which he acknowledged, saying they were mostly aimed to be tests of prints' market-readiness. "What I'm really interested in is experiments with artistic concepts I can use in my work. But in shows in public galleries, I don't think I could show these kinds of paintings."

Despite all their worries, the young artists have decided to stick to their chosen field. "We hope to set up a printmaking workshop after we graduate," said Zhang Xuan, whose works show the influence of Chinese painting. "We want to explore the market at the same time develop ourselves. Our workshop could be a bridge between the market and academic circles."






The Pond by Zhang Xuan

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Lulu's Lasting Shock Value



By Zhu Lin

Wherever Alban Berg's *Lulu* arrives, it arouses controversy. There was no exception at the Beijing Music Festival, where *Lulu* made its Asian premiere this week. It was the festival's liveliest talking point.

Only half the tickets were sold for the first performance of the Helikon Opera Company's production of *Lulu*. If Beijing audiences seemed somewhat skeptical, it's partly because they have had little exposure to contemporary operas. Academic circles in China have yet to approach this genre, according to Wang Li from the Vocal Division of the Arts Department, Beijing Normal University.

One of the reasons for *Lulu's* reputation is that, somewhat unusually for an opera, it delves into the sordid world of the sex industry in revealing a prostitute's life. But it's widely regarded as one of the most important contemporary operas. "It's about the mentality of twentieth-century people," says Dmitry Bertman, producer of the opera. "Life in the 20th century changed a lot, becoming a lot more chaotic."

"The story is about many dirty things in life," says Moscow-born Bertman, who co-founded the Helikon Opera Theatre with conductor Kiril Tikhonov in 1990.

Composer Alban Berg (1885-1935) used the "atonal" 12-tone system of composition. He based his libretto on two plays by Frank Wedekind, *Erdgeist* (1895) and *Pandora's Box* (1901).

Though it still seems avant-garde to many audiences today, *Lulu* was written in 1923. "People are always left behind by music," says Bertman. "The music in the 18th century was popular in the 19th century, and 19th century music is popular today. People are always behind by 100 years; that's normal."

Paradise at a Price

By Wang Chunzhu

Bringing paradise to the stage is the modest ambition of China Children's Art Theatre, where the first performance of *Shangri-La* is to be held this Saturday night (November 2).

The main character of *Shangri-La* is Mage Yangjin, a fairy of Tibetan folklore. She comes down from heaven to find a dreamland in the human world. She finds Shangri-La where the local Tibetan people live happily. There she falls in love with Dawa, a brave young hunter. But their love is tested by the appearance of a witch who attempts to take over Shangri-La.

No expense has been spared to create the lush sets featuring glittering snowcaps. The total cost of *Shangri-La* has reached three million yuan, with more than 400,000 yuan being spent on the costumes which were hand-made for the cast.

"*Shangri-La* is about harmony. Harmony among human beings, harmony between people and nature, and harmony between spirit and substance," says Ouyang Yibing, the head of China Children's Art Theatre.



Mage Yangjin comes down from heaven

Lovers in the Sky Opens Tokyo International Film Festival

By Wang Chunzhu

Last Saturday, the Fifteenth Tokyo International Film Festival opened with *Lovers in the Sky*. It's the only film from Chinese mainland among the fifteen movies that are up for the seven prizes awarded at the festival.

Directed by Jiang Qinmin, the first Chinese to get a master's degree in filmmaking in Japan, *Lovers in the Sky* tells the story of a poor community in South China.

A deaf son (played by Liu Ye) falls in love with the most beautiful girl in the village (Tao Hong). He doesn't have any idea that a dumb girl (Dong Jie) loves him silently. Thus a touching love triangle grows between the three.



Dong Jie (middle) with Tom Cruise and Stephen Spielberg

Country Life

By Sun Yan

China Central Television Station (CCTV) has started a short film project called *Shooting Now* intended to show changing lifestyles in the countryside.

Shooting Now comprises a series of films on different aspects of local Chinese communities. A Kazak young

man in Xinjiang Autonomous Region has offered a film about him and his family's experiences as tour guides. Farmers from Hubei Province want to share the story about how they became rich by growing and selling flowers.

There will be about 30 20-minute films in the series. It will be broadcast on CCTV and 50 other local television stations from October 21.

WORLDWIDE



Woody Allen accompanied by his wife Soon-Yi arrive in Rome

Woody Allen Calls Self Failed Artist

He's won three Oscars and is considered by many to be one of the best movie directors of our time. But Woody Allen says if he had three words to define himself, "I would say I was a failed artist."

"I am not even an actor," the 66-year-old Allen was quoted as saying by La Repubblica daily and other Italian newspapers. "Dustin Hoffman is an actor, Jack Nicholson is an actor, I'm not."

"If I weren't famous, nobody would come to my concerts," he told the Rome daily Il Messaggero. "I'm less than mediocre with the clarinet."

Allen was in Rome to promote "Hollywood Ending," which was a box-office disappointment in the United States.



Christina Aguilera

Aguilera Sheds Teen Pop Image

Christina Aguilera considers her new disc, *Stripped*, a chance for people to finally get to know who she really is to "see the bare me."

The cover of her new disc shows her topless, covered only by her long locks. And she's completely naked on the new cover of Rolling Stone — save for a strategically placed guitar.

"I don't see anything wrong with being comfortable with my own skin," the 21-year-old said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

Not everyone is as comfortable with her skin as she is. Reaction to the teen-pop idol's transformation into a sexually charged diva has been decidedly mixed.

Harris' Death Hurts 'Potter' Series

The death of Richard Harris leaves Warner Bros. with a major question mark as to who will now play Albus Dumbledore in the third movie of the *Harry Potter* series.

Production on the series' third installment, "Harry Potter and the

Prisoner of Azkaban," was to begin in either February or March, and Harris had signed on to appear in it, the studio said.

"Azkaban" director Alfonso Cuarón, who is taking over the fantasy franchise from departing director Chris Columbus, did not immediately return calls for comment.

Harris became ill this year after filming the second movie in the series, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," which is scheduled to debut November 15.



Harris is shown in character in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

Crime Writer Says She's Got the Ripper's DNA

Best-selling crime novelist Patricia Cornwell thinks she may have uncovered Jack the Ripper's DNA and that it could be a match for a British artist who liked to paint morbid scenes of violence against women.

In an excerpt from her forthcoming book, "Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper — Case Closed" published in the November issue of Vanity Fair, Cornwell said that the Ripper's DNA could be a match with the DNA of Walter Sickert, an artist who used prostitutes as models and who painted scenes similar to the murders committed by the Ripper, a serial killer who terrorized London in the 1880s.

Action Director Woo Has TV in Crosshairs

Action director John Woo, last in theaters with *Windtalkers*, has signed a deal to develop drama series projects for network TV.

His pact with 20th Century Fox and Regency Television is part of a trend of TV studios turning to feature and music video helmers to produce and direct series projects.

"We want to capitalize on his ability to bring a really bigscreen visual sensibility to television," said Twentieth Century Fox TV president Gary Newman.



Woo is shown on the set of Windtalkers with Nicolas Cage

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World Fur Fad Hits Capital

By Alice

On runways this year from Milan to Paris to New York, fur has been a major theme in fashion, either on its own or in combination with a wide variety of other fabrics. With last week's opening of a local event, keeping up with cutting-edge fashion just got easier for Beijing's fur-friendly.

Last Friday, "the 2002 Beijing Fur Show" kicked off, showcasing furs from 11 top designers from Milan, New York and Paris at the Beijing Kerry Center Hotel. Designers featured include Christian Lacroix, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Givenchy from Paris, Gianfranco Ferre and Max Mara from Milan, and Oscar de la Renta and Chinese-American designers Vera Wang, Peter Som and Han Feng from New York. Each designer displayed eight to ten fur garments created especially for this event, hosted by

SAGA Furs and IFTF.

"Fur has always been an integral part of fashion. This is especially true in China, which has a fur tradition that goes back thousands of years. This show not only honors a great tradition, it also demonstrates fur's importance to contemporary top designers," said Andreas Lenhart, Chairman of the International Fur Trade Federation.

According to Ulrik Kirchheiner, SAGA's President, "China has become an important world market for fur as well as other luxury products. Consumers there have

become quite savvy. They know the top brands and they recognize quality."

The day before the show, the SAGA Design and Workshop Center was opened in Beijing, the first design center SAA Fur has ever set up outside northern Europe. It will supply Chinese fur and textile manufacturers with technical training and services for product development. It will also work with Chinese fashion designers and technicians to find more creative usages of SAGA Mink® and SAGA Fox®.

Finnish Fur Sales also opened its Beijing Office together with the Center. In the near future, fur clothes with the most fashionable style in the world will hit the streets of Beijing.

Where: Room 1206A, Diyang Building, Xin2, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8453 6788
8453 6789



Waxing Ethnic

By Yu Yang

Batik is an ancient, beautiful art form native to eastern Asia, including China. To create batik works, needles are used to draw intricate designs on cloth with melted wax. The cloth is then dyed, with the waxed sections standing out to form exquisite designs.

Qing Linhai, a batik artist and owner of the Auspices Batik Art Gallery, says, "In my hometown in Guizhou, because girls have no chance to study, they start to make batiks when they're around seven years old. I hope this will be one way to lead them out of the poverty of their mountain homes."

No efforts have been spared in collecting and arranging the batiks shown in the gallery, which range from tapestries to clothes, hats, curtains, quilts and sheets. All are beautiful blends of form, function, and heritage.

The batiks on sale feature



Wall hangings of Chinese masks, 20-140 yuan

Photos by Peng Jianwei

more than 1,000 kinds of patterns, each with its own symbols and story. "Wu Yue" is a picture of life in the Han dynasty, while "Die Mu" represents a folk story of a butterfly cocoon that gave rise to the Miao people.

"Most people have trouble telling the difference between batik and needle dyeing, embroidery dyeing and plant dyeing," Chen says. "Batik looks more solid and its pattern continues

on the back of pieces, while needle dyeing is limited to one color and simple patterns. Embroider dyeing creates expensive pieces, while plant dyeing has rich colors." Those that do know the difference will head to this store to get their hands on real Chinese batik.

Where: Stand 292, Lirenjie market in Wudaokou, Haidian District
Open: 10 am - 8 pm
Tel: 6837 8984

War Games

By Salinda

Weekend warriors, camping buffs and camo fetishists should set their sights on the Liu Lang Zhe store, which stands between Dongdan and Dongsì.

The store is broken into two floors. The first is not very special, offering ordinary clothes, some military garb and little items like Zippo lighters. While its easy to miss the stairs in the corner that lead to the second floor, be sure not to - that's where the good stuff is hidden.

Old military gear up to 20 - 60 years old is scattered around the room. A stand-out is an old-



Photo by Li Shuzhuan

style transmitter-receiver, the rarest treasure of store owner Wu Danding. It is also the most expensive item in the shop, priced at around 1,000 yuan.

An old hand-crank army telephone is hung on a leather horse-whip on one wall. Shelves and displays hold green oil lamps, canteens, flashlights, and a 50-year-old periscope, all priced from 48 to 68 yuan. Other walls

are adorned with framed pictures of soldiers, planes, battleships and other gung-ho shots.

One board is striking, as it covered with dozens of military badges, and epaulets from different countries, priced at 25 - 35 yuan.

Owner Wu says, "I have never been a soldier, but I am crazy about the military. Some other young people like me, who worship soldiers, like to come here."

Military uniforms from China, especially those with badges with Mao Zedong's image, are popular among foreigners. The style and feel of these original uniforms cannot be copied, and have a real flavor of China's recent past.

Where: No. 100, Dongsì Nandajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am - 8 pm
Tel: 6522 4834

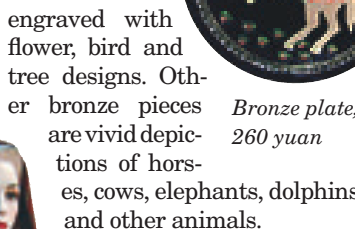
Taste of Pakistan

By Liang Hongling

People looking for gifts with unusual flavor would be wise to head to a store on the sixth floor of Xin Dong'an Plaza that specializes in goods from Pakistan.

Khalid Azam, who used to study Chinese in Beijing, opened the store with a Chinese friend. All the goods on show have been imported from Pakistan, Azam's home country.

Striking pieces include bronze vases of various sizes



Bronze plate, 260 yuan



Pakistani shawl, 330 yuan
Photos by Li Shuzhuan

engraved with flower, bird and tree designs. Other bronze pieces are vivid depictions of horses, cows, elephants, dolphins and other animals.

The store also offers

clothes and accessories with a distinctly Pakistani flavor and made of excellent materials.

The walls are covered in bags and scarves that come in a range of colors and materials, including linen

and silk.

Stand-out items are Pakistani jade goods, the colors of which are quite different from Chinese jade. Many have beautiful brown veins, and they came in a wide range of designs from animals like rabbits and elephants to practical items like clocks, ashtrays and elegant drinking vessels.

Where: Room 613 in the Xin Dong'an Plaza
Open: 10 am - 9 pm
Tel: 13910671365

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Hotpot at Donglaishun is a good way to warm up on a chilly day.

Fine Dining Muslim-Style

By Wenlong



Hongbinlou Restaurant

This restaurant was first established in Tianjin in 1853 and moved to its present location in 1963. Hongbinlou Restaurant enjoys a reputation as the best Muslim restaurant in Beijing. Its lamb feast, consisting of only mutton dishes, is especially renown. The price, 2,880 yuan, is high, but not too bad considering it is made up of 10 hot dishes, six cold dishes, four snacks and desert, enough to feed many. Those up for the lamb overload must make reservations a week in advance.



Mixed hotpot (shijin huoguo), 200 yuan

Other worthy dishes on the menu include roast duck (*kaoya*, 58 yuan), braised ox-tail (*hongshao niuwei*, 80 yuan) mixed hotpot (*shijin huoguo*, 200 yuan) and braised camel hoof (*shao tuozhang*, 240 yuan per kilogram). The first floor of the two-story restaurant is under construction and will reopen in late November.

Open: 11am - 10pm **Add:** No.11, Zhanlan Lu, Xicheng District **Tel:** 6899 2569 **Average cost:** 80 yuan per person



Donglaishun Restaurant

Donglaishun Restaurant, established in 1903, has raised Muslim-style mutton hotpot to the level of art. Its recipe has met success, as it now operates 25 branches in Beijing and 96 nationwide.

The restaurant has developed its own Muslim menu of more than 200 dishes cooked by instant boiling, stir-frying, quick-frying and grilling. Its mutton hotpot features select slices of lamb carbed from young sheep from Inner Mongolia that do not have the unpleasant smell associated with mutton hotpot at other eateries.

The meat is cut by machine into slices precisely 0.9 millimeters thick and five grams in weight. Each 12-yuan dish of meat has about 40 slices of fresh, tender meat as thin as paper and delicate as silk.

Creation of the hotpot is credited to the cooks of Kublai Khan, famed emperor of the Yuan dynasty, during one of the emperor's many battles. It was a bitter winter, and the Mongolian troops had nothing to eat as they marched. The cooks quickly boiled slices of mutton and served them with a rough sauce. The results, while hardly

Known as halal or other terms abroad, Muslim cuisine is called *qingzhen* food in China. Qingzhen itself means Islam, but divided, the characters stand for cleanness and purity. Those words are accurate descriptions of Muslim Chinese food.

Not surprising for the country's size, Muslim fare varies in China, from the more orthodox food of the Uygur people of Xinjiang to Beijing Muslim cuisine, which has absorbed methods and ingredients from mainstream Chinese food.

Muslim cuisine is believed to have entered the central China region in the 13th century, following the conquests of Genghis Khan's armies in central and west Asia. When the Mongolian troops returned to the Yuan dynasty capital of Beijing, they brought the fare with them.

At that time, Chinese Muslim food was relatively simple, relying on straight-forward cooking methods and offering little variety from instant boiled mutton and grilled beef. However, after hundreds of years of development and absorbing some aspects of traditional Chinese cooking, Muslim cuisine has become quite diverse in style, technique and flavor.

Muslim food has three major characteristics. First, wheat-based foods are the staple, and eaten in far greater quantity than rice. Second, sweet foods have a dominant status. Third, beef and mutton are still the most popular meats, although Islam allows for the eating of chicken, duck, and fish, while prohibiting pork and fish with no scales.

"Nine bowls and three lines" is the name of a traditional Muslim feast, generally held for weddings, funerals, or when receiving guests or relatives. The feast's name refers to having nine bowls of dishes, each bowl the same size, arranged into a three bowl-by-three bowl square. Preparation of the dishes for "nine bowls and three lines" involves frying, steaming and boiling. The basic ingredients are beef, mutton, Chinese cabbage, bean curd, egg, chopped scallion, hot pepper and other vegetables, and steamed rolls or buns are served for starches.

Even Beijing-style Muslim cuisine can be divided into two branches: east and west. The eastern style is known for boiled, grilled or roasted mutton and beef, while the western style, which shows the absorption of Han cooking methods, is more delicate and some say delicious.

The cold winds of autumn and winter are the perfect time to try Muslim fare, especially hotpot and roast mutton, both of which warm both restaurants and their patrons' stomachs and hearts.

delicious, were good at stuffing soldiers' empty stomachs, and became standard fare for the Yuan army.

The restaurant also features special table-top roasting frames inserted into a hole in the middle of its round tables. Customers have the option of either roasting their meat themselves, or having it done by waiters.

Other recommendations are braised sea cucumber with scallion (*cong shao haishen*, 65 yuan), braised lamb shreds (*pa yangroutiao*, 22 yuan), braised ox-tail in brown sauce (*hongshao niuwei*, 28 yuan) and sweet lamb meat (*ta si mi*, 23 yuan).

Open: 11am - 9:30pm **Add:** No.138, Wangfujing Avenue, Dongcheng District **Tel:** 6528 0501 **Average cost:** 60 yuan per person



Wan's Barbecue Restaurant (Kao Rou Wan)

The restaurant, established on 1686, is the oldest barbecue joint in Beijing. The restaurant got its name from the curious fact that in the past, most people who sold mutton and beef shared the family name of Wan.



Steamed abalone with aloe (luhui xianbao), 100 yuan



Fried fish with pine nuts (songren shum), 48 yuan

That tradition seems to have continued to today, as the current owner of the eatery is a Mr. Wan.

Qi Baishi, the famous painter, wrote the Chinese character *kao* (roast) after eating Wan's delicious roast beef.

Dishes to try include the roast beef (*kao niurou*, 60 yuan per kilogram), as well as roast mutton (*kao yangrou*, 76 yuan per kilogram), quick fried shrimp meat (*gongbao xiarou*, 60 yuan) and quick fried aloe (*luhui xianbao*, 100 yuan).

Open: 11am - 2pm; 5pm - 10pm **Add:** No.69, Wanquanhe Lu, Haidian District **Tel:** 6257 6888 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person



Xilaishun Restaurant

The restaurant has been serving authentic Muslim dishes and hotpot for 72 years. The two-story restaurant, located opposite the Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant, also sells roast duck at prices for lower than its neighbor. Its roast duck (*kao ya*, 66 yuan) is made according to the methods of Ma Lianliang, a Peking opera actor of nearly equal fame as Mei Lanfang, and is less greasy

Food Cure

By Wenlong

Chestnuts, now in season and available city-wide, have long been known in China as the "King of Nuts". Chestnut growing in this country can be traced back more than 2,000 years.

Like walnuts, chestnuts are divided into wild and domesticated varieties, easily told apart by the wild version's small size.

Chestnuts can be eaten either raw or cooked, and are similar to wheat and beans in nutritional content, providing starch, protein, fat, fiber, carbohydrates and various vitamins.

According to Traditional Chinese Medicine, the chestnut is not only a tasty food but also an excellent curative. Chestnuts help relieve high-blood pressure and coronary heart disease and can treat chronic laryngitis.

Caution: Excessive consumption of chestnuts can be harmful because they are hard to digest, especially for infants.

Directions: Chestnuts cooked with chicken is a popular home-style dish. It is also simple to make. Stir fry 250g of chestnuts with one chicken, divided into parts, and add spices as desired. This dish is good for treating weak kidneys.

A similar dish of 250g of chestnuts cooked with 250g of mutton is effective in treating chronic laryngitis.

and fatty than most roast duck.

Other dishes include grilled fish (*kao yu*, 28 yuan) and braised lamb hoof (*shao yangti*, 32 yuan)

Open: 11am - 2pm; 5pm - 9pm **Add:** No. 116, BeiXinhua Jie, Xicheng District **Tel:** 66014810 **Average cost:** 30 yuan



Youyishun Restaurant

This restaurant is the youngest of these eateries with a history of only 54 years of operation. It combines east and west style Beijing Muslim food, meaning there are many more delicate dishes above its mutton hotpot. Former US President Richard Nixon had dinner at this restaurant during his visit to China in 1972.

There are more than 100 dishes on the extensive Chinese-English menu, with specialties including braised beef (*pa niurou*, 27 yuan), braised ox-tail (*shao niuwei*, 60 yuan), sweet lamb meet (*ta si mi*, 26 yuan) and braised sea cucumber with onion (*cong shao haishen*, 170 yuan).

Open: 6am - 11pm **Add:** No.60, Huangsi Dajie, Xicheng District **Tel:** 62005848 **Average cost:** 40 yuan per person

Ji's Barbecue Restaurant (Kao Rou Ji)

This restaurant has similar origins with Wan's Barbecue Restaurant, but has become more prosperous due to its superior location on the north side of Yinding Qiao of beautiful Shichahai lake.

Recommended dishes include roast beef (*kao niurou*, 86 yuan per kilogram), braised camel hoof (*shao tuozhang*, 255 yuan) and quick fried mutton with sweetened apricot (*xinggan yangrou*, 60 yuan).

Open: 11am - 10pm **Add:** No.14, Qianhai Dongyan, Di'anmenwai Dajie, Xicheng District **Tel:** 64042554 **Average cost:** 30 to 50 yuan per person



Braised camel hoof



Roast beef

Ji's Barbecue Restaurant contributed photos of their shop; the other photos were taken by Zhuang Jian and Wenlong.

Halloween Party

Halloween Fancy Dress Party

It is a night for the cryptic, the freaky and the ghoulish to come out. Drink specials include "bucket of blood cocktail" and the grim reaper will be taking to the decks. Descend into the depths for Halloween madness.

Where: VICS, North Gate of the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang **When:** November 1, 10 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan, free with costume **Tel:** 6593 6215

Halloween Fright Night

South American drinks & rhythms and a nightly lucky draw which features special prizes and party bonuses. Free entrance and one glass of



"Magic Potion" for anyone who comes in a costume.

Where: Salsa Cabana, 1/F of the Lufthansa Shopping Centre, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** till November 2 **Tel:** 6465 3388 ext 5700

Exhibitions



Painting by Cai Yannain

Chinese Painting and Print Exhibition

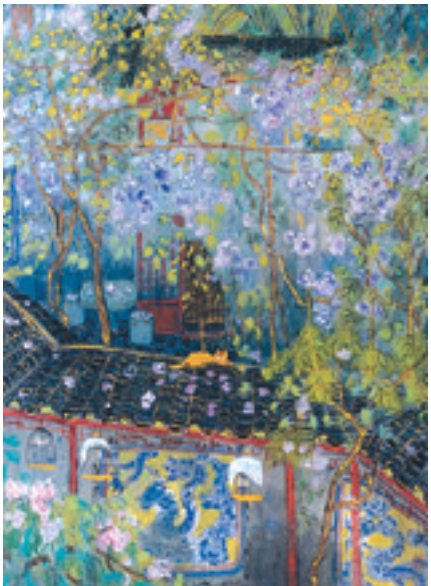
The exhibition has more than 60 paintings by famous artists, Zhang Lijun and Cai Yannain.

Where: Wang Fung Art Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie Dongcheng **When:** November 1-11, 9 am-5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6528 9103 **Email:** newartcenter@163.com

Oil Show

Fengfeng oil paintings feature a combination of ancient and modern, expressing the cream of our national culture. His traditional art uses magnificent "royal paints" such as vermeil, orange, dark, green and rich mauves. His work also features classical books and stamps, which are incorporated into his masterpieces.

Where: Qin Gallery, Hua Wei Li Enjoy Paradise 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang **When:** November 1-14 **Tel:** 8779 0461, 8779 0458 **Email:** qingallery@yahoo.com



Painting by Fangxiang

Joint Exhibition

In this exhibition there are China ink and wash paintings, oil paintings and prints. Xiaofeng is known for capturing light and representing it in his work with an emphasis on the shifting between reality and the fleeting aspects of life. Fangxian's work is imbued with local flavor.

Where: Creation Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang **When:** till November 6, 10 am-7 pm **Email:** kecg_cn@sina.com

Joint Oil Painting Exhibition

This exhibition features wonderful works by Han Xuejun, Yinkun, Liu Baoming, Laodao, Xinyi, and Li Chunyao's recent oil works.

Where: 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongchen **When:** November 1, 3-5 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320 **Website:** www.wanfung.com.cn

A window to the past

Zhang Guoning is an artist whose work recalls Old Beijing. He cherishes the memory of the hutongs

and siheyuan of our ancient capital and its old lifestyles. His paintings have been purchased by collectors in America, Britain, China and other countries.

Where: Fa Fa Gallery, 2 Xiangjiang Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** November 1-15, 9 am-10 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6434 4053 ext 831

Chinese Women's Oil Painting

This exhibition highlights the works of some well-known Chinese contemporary women painters.

Where: East Gallery, Deshengmen Watchtower, North Second Ring Road, Xicheng **When:** till November 12, 9 am-5:30 pm **Tel:** 8201 4962

A Calm Artist

French Chinese artist He Muqun's solo show is on at the art gallery of Beijing International Art Palace. He focuses on the natural and simple scenery of life that was somehow unfashionable in Paris in the 1960s when modern art trends were on the move. Commonplace ordinary life scenes of workers, children, food and clothes were symbols of true life in the artist's eyes and have been the theme of his work ever since.

Where: 48 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** till November 3 **Tel:** 6513 3388 ext 1207

Activities

Climbing and Sightseeing

Walk north up a farm trail, through chestnut orchards. After climbing to the top of a hill, you can stop for a break and admire the view of the Black mountain behind, and the Great Wall to the north. As well as the wall and the mountain views, you can see old villages, hill farms, an old barracks built for the great wall soldiers and an old underground army store-room (if it is open).

Where: Chang Ping County, from the black mountain to the walled village **When:** November 3, 8:30 am at the Lido, outside Starbucks, 9:00 am at Capital Paradise (front gate) 5:00 pm return **Admission:** adult 150 yuan, child 100 yuan **Tel:** 13701003694 **Email:** bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

Old favorites

Have your fill of free punch to pump you up for a night of dancing - you will need the energy. Expect raga, reggae, and latin grooves mixed with all of your old favorites.

Where: VICS, North Gate of the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang **When:** November 7, 10 pm **Tel:** 6593 6215

Flu Shots

The flu season is upon us. Beijing United Family Hospital is providing flu shot service at US\$10 a shot. Appointments preferred, walk-ins accommodated.

Where: 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang **When:** till December 15, 9 am-9 pm **Tel:** 6433 3960

Dining out

Green T House Grand Opening

The fresh look of the new Green T House is set to pull in the punters. There are master chefs from the USA, UK, Japan, Australia and more, with Zhang Jinjie as Beijing's resident chef. Wineries also pump up the ego of the restaurant, boasting the best from France, Spain, Canada, Italy and Germany.

Where: 6 the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang **When:** November 2 **Tel:** 6552 8310

Vietnamese Food Festival

Guest chefs from Vietnam, traditional delicacies, grand raffle draw with prizes that include a 4-day trip for two to Hanoi.

Where: Atrium Café, 2/F, Beijing Hilton Hotel **When:** November 4-10 **Admission:** 185 yuan **Tel:** 6466 2288 ext 7406

Auction



A Green-Ground Famille-rose Jar

Furniture and Calligraphy

This auction features a pair of Huanghuali matching wardrobe cabinets, which are the second largest in existence, next to the pair in the Hall of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City. The auction will also feature the Qian Jingtang (1907-1983) collection of Ming Dynasty Letters, an extremely precious collection of calligraphy written by more than 400 prominent people from the 15th to the 17th centuries.

Where: Kunlun Hotel, 2 Xinyuan Nanlu **When:** November 2-3 **Tel:** 6590 3388 ext 5527

New Boy on the 'Block'

The autumn auction has four categories: Chinese oil paintings and sculptures, Chinese ink paintings and calligraphy, china and jade articles, and coins and stamps. A total of 2,800 items will be put under the hammer.

Where: Jingguang Centre, Huji-alou, Chaoyang **When:** November 3-4 **Tel:** 6597 8294

Stage



The Fairy Maiden

The Heavens and the Human World

A couple has been married for years. They have a common and regular life so they become fed up and decide to change partners and start a new life. But after a while, they are fed up with their new lives again. They want to change back, but how and what to change?

Where: The People's Art Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** till November 2 **Tel:** 6525 0123

Into the Woods

This musical brings to life well-known fairytale characters such as Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood along with a baker and his wife, whose longing for a child is thwarted by a mischievous witch next door.

Where: ISB Theater, 10 Anhuajie Shunyi **When:** November 6, 4 pm; November 7-9, 7 pm **Admission:** 40-60 yuan **Tel:** 8046-2345 ext 1652

Myriad Twinkling Tights

The play reveals the joys and sorrows of the lives of common people.

Where: Capital Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** November 7-9 **Tel:** 6525 0996

Parties

A Glimpse of Life

The evening will feature an international DJ, a wine tasting session, a digital art presentation, an alternative film featuring the work of Zhang Yang, and artistic body painting.

Where: Loft, 4 the Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang **When:** November 2, 9 pm **Admission:** 100 yuan

Tel: 6506 5637



YPHH Moet & Chandon Night

Come together again for a night with the Queen of Drinks! 3 glasses for 150 yuan only. This time we will enjoy

the hospitality of the Hilton Beijing.

Where: Hilton Beijing **When:** November 6, 8-10 pm **Website:** www.yphh.com

Dance all night

Deep House and Funky House tunes all night, Guest DJ Nlels from Norway and A Wei from China. Ladies get in free before midnight, members free, and 10 yuan drink specials for the evening.

Where: Club Orange, Opposite Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang **When:** November 1-2, 9 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6415 7413

Rocky Horror Show

Strange Visitation, a new five-piece foreign cover band that specializes in playing music from the 1980s and current hits, will perform. There will be prizes and give-aways for the best-dressed partygoer.

Where: CD Cafe, south of the Agricultural Exhibition Centre, Chaoyang **When:** November 2, 9:30 pm **Admission:** 20 yuan **Tel:** 6501 8877 ext 3032

Movies

The Infant

Tomas inherits a ruined world. He is the keeper of Lagoa, his infertile wife, of Domingos, his black handicapped servant, of two dogs and a Jaguar, which takes him to Lisbon and its whorehouse.

Where: Cinema Hall of the French School, 8 Dongwujie Sanlidun Chaoyang **When:** November 5, 4:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 4795



Porto Da Minha Infancia

My Childhood's Oporto

It seemed impossible to make a film about Oporto with most of the city undergoing reconstruction work, but actually it worked perfectly, allowing the director, Manoel de Oliverira, to recall the town of his childhood through his memories. He considers the film to be a documentary even though he was forced to recreate some scenes. With French subtitles.

Where: Cinema Hall of the French School, 8 Dongwujie Sanlitun Chaoyang **When:** November 5, 6:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 4795

The Knights of the Quest, The 2001

This monumental film boasts beautiful locations, convincing protagonists and a very interesting take on the age-old legend of Jesus Christ's shroud. In 1271, five young knights journey to Thebes in Greece to recover the Sacred Shroud and deliver it back to France and into the hands of the royal family. In Italian with English subtitle.

Where: Italian Embassy-Cultural Office **When:** November 7, 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187

Performance



An Alliance of Western Music & Chinese Dance

Cross Border

This combination of music and dance brings you Joanna Macgregor, one of the UK's most outstanding modern pianists, and widely thought of as one of the most innovative and wide-ranging of today's pianists. She divides her time between playing classical, jazz and contemporary music. She has performed in over forty countries.

Jinxing is known both at home and abroad for her challenging dance performances and directing and choreography.

Where: Bei Bing Ma Si Theatre **When:** November 1-2, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm **Admission:** 30-380 yuan **Tel:** 6590 6903 ext 323

Peking Opera

The Liyuan Theatre presents traditional Peking Opera excerpts, specially packaged in short programs for foreign audiences who are welcome to visit the backstage and have photos taken with the performers.

Where: Qianmen Hotel, 175 Yong'an Lu, Xuanwu **When:** November 1-7, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 30, 50, 90, 150, 200 yuan **Tel:** 8315 7297

Music



Closing Gala Concert

The performance will include works by Wagner, Verdi, Mozart, Rossini, and Saint-Saens.

Where: Poly Theatre **When:** November 1-2, 19:30 pm **Admission:** 480, 680, 800 yuan **Tel:** 6406 8888, 6406 9999

Electro Special

Feng Jiangzhou, a painter, a singer, a talented poet and a food expert offers his distinctive brand of music. At the same time, Sun Danwei and FM-3 are scheduled to take the stage.

Where: Get Lucky bar, Taiyang Gong, east of the University of International Business and Economics, near Taiyang Market. **When:** November 2, 9:30 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan **Tel:** 6343 4488 ext 8507



Ode to Red Flag

Performed by China Philharmonic Orchestra, China Central Opera, China Opera and Ballet Theater Troupe. It includes orchestra, piano concerto, orchestral music and Chorus.

Piano: Zhuhe Ruowei
Conductor: Jing Zhangping, Li Yuning

anchors: Li Xiaoxiang, Hongfei
Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun, Nandajie, Haidian **When:** November 7, 7:30 pm **Tel:** 6848 5462

From Norway, Scandinavia, the North Kristiansand Chamber Orchestra

An evening of music by Norwegian composers Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), Johan Kvanndal (1919-1999) and Terje Bjorklund (1945-) Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) Swedish composer Johan H. Roman (1694-1758) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791).

Where: at the Beijing Hotel, Attire and Evening Banquet Theater **When:** November 2, 7:30 pm **Tel:** 85116188 ext 18 **Website:** www.bjpart.com.cn

Where: at the Forbidden City Concert Hall **When:** November 3, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-220 yuan **Tel:** 65598285, 6605 7006 **Website:** www.artstoday.com

Language exchange

A Chinese student wants to find a native English speaker for language exchange.

email: vevin@263.net

A cute Chinese girl, well educated, is seeking a native English speaker for language exchange. She will introduce Chinese traditional culture.

email: loveourlove@sohu.com

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2521

By Guo Yuandan



Fourteen of the Ming emperors were buried in Beijing. But only thirteen were buried in the world-famous Ming Tombs. Where is the fourteenth mausoleum?

Light filters through the roof of the pavilion, one of the last remaining buildings at the tomb.

During the eight years of Yu's reign, Zhen lived in solitude in a separate palace in Beijing.

Emperor Jingtai meanwhile took measures to strengthen the power of the Ming Empire as well as his own authority. He deprived Zhen's son of his title of crown prince and gave it to his own son instead. He built a grand Mausoleum for himself beside those of his ancestors. He also developed a technique to paint on bronze enamels, hence creating the famous "Jing Tai Lan" (Cloisonné) which has been popular ever since. Had his reign continued, he could have been a great emperor.

Yu's reign ended in January of 1457. He was sick in bed. Several important ministers who were loyal to Zhen launched a coup. They led troops to the palace where Zhen was living and brought him back to the main hall of the emperor's palace. All ministers were summoned and informed that Zhen (Yingzong) had been restored to the throne as lawful emperor. This was the first time this had occurred in Chinese history. Zhen immediately purged ministers loyal to Yu and demoted Yu to the rank of an ordinary prince.

This is the story of two emperors. Their ups and downs, brotherhood and enmity, power and impotence, were common themes in the imperial history of China and they inspired conflicting judgments by later generations. According to Emperor Qianlong's evaluation of the event, Yu's enthronement was the correct action under the circumstances, but he should have returned supreme power to his brother upon his release. Zhen's palace coup brought him back to the throne that was his by birthright, but the coup itself was not just at all.

By Jerry Ho

People who know the history of Ming Dynasty know that between the two periods known as "Zhengtong" and "Tianshun" when Emperor Yingzong (Zhu Qizhen) was on the throne, there was a reign called "Jingtai". His younger brother Zhu Qiyu ruled during the "Jingtai" period. It was Zhu Qiyu who was buried in the fourteenth mausoleum. As he was dethroned, he was not allowed to be buried in the Ming Tombs (Shi San Ling). The fate of Jingtai and the restoration of his elder brother's imperial power was one of the most dramatic periods of the early Ming Dynasty, involving not only a palace coup but also invasion by a Mongolian tribe.

Seeking the Mausoleum

Jingtai Mausoleum is quite close to the Xi Shan area (also called Yu Quan Shan, a famous restricted area for country leaders and for other military purposes). On the bus lines from the Summer Palace to Fragrant Hill, the stop named "Niangniang Fu" is the nearest one to Yu Quan Shan. Though I didn't know the exact location of the Mausoleum, I got off at this stop and began



The Chinese characters for Jingtai Mausoleum are set in the outer wall of the pavilion.

my tour.

An old beekeeper was busy by the side of a small road and I thought he might know why this place was called "Niangniang Fu" (residence of an imperial concubine). He seemed quite used to being asked this question. "There used to be a tomb here for a concubine of the third emperor of the Ming Dynasty," he said, and he pointed to a military courtyard just to the north. "In 1980 when they built that rest house for retired soldiers, the tomb was flattened and became a basketball ground. A stele is virtually all that remains."

I entered the rest house and found the stele which was sheltered by a green-glazed pavilion and surrounded by a fence. I was astonished to read the plate on

the fence that read: Jingtai Mausoleum, Important Historic Relic of Beijing.

The Mausoleum

Always mistaken for the tomb of a concubine, the Jingtai Mausoleum indeed does not look like the tomb of an emperor. Now there is a basketball ground where the tomb should be. With an area of about 4,000 square meters, the mausoleum is very simple and only two buildings are left: Lin'en Hall, which is being renovated, and a gate and a stele inscribed with a poem by Emperor Qianlong and marked with the words "the Tomb for Emperor Jingtai of the Great Ming".

The story

Zhu Qiyu (Jingtai, hereinafter called Yu) and Zhu Qizhen (Yingzong, hereinafter called Zhen) were brothers. When their father,



The jade seal of Emperor Qianlong in the stele

Emperor Xuande, died, Zhen inherited the throne at the age of nine and began the reign named "Zhengtong" in 1435. Yu



Lin'en Hall, currently being renovated

remained a prince. In the early years of his reign, Zhen was assisted by three ministers and the whole country was stable. In 1449, a northern Mongolian tribe called Wa La began to conduct raids on the north borders of China. Zhen decided to fight back and led the expedition by himself. Unfortunately, his main adviser was not a good general and the Ming army lost ground. In July that year, the two sides had a decisive battle at Tu Mu Bao (now in Huai Lai County of Hebei Province). The Ming army was defeated and the emperor was captured. This is known as the famous "Tu Mu Event" in Chinese history.

Yu was then defending Beijing. After the defeat and the capture of Zhen, Yu was designated as Jian Guo (acting leader) of the Ming Empire. Some ministers advised him to move the capital city to the south to stay away from the invaders. He refused and ordered a brave general to lead a great campaign for the defense of Beijing. The Ming army won and the capital was saved. He then came to the throne and changed the name of his reign to "Jingtai". His brother Zhen, the former emperor who was still a captive, was given an honorary title.

After defeat in the campaign of Beijing and the enthronement



The tomb is now a rest house for retired soldiers.

of Yu, Zhen was no more use as a hostage. So in order to smooth relations with the resurgent Ming government, the leader of Wa La sent Zhen back to his country.



The wall around the tomb

Photos by Bobby

Yu died in despair shortly after the dethronement. Some historians have speculated that Zhen had him murdered. The great mausoleum that Yu built for himself was demolished and he was buried separately in an ordinary place. His nephew was not so harsh. Zhen's son later became Emperor Cheng Hua. He didn't forget his uncle's contribution in saving the Ming Empire at a time of great danger and redressed his father's decisions by having Yu recognized as an emperor. But Yu's tomb was not moved. As time went by, people gradually forgot its origin and today even the nearby residents don't know whom it belongs to.

Chinawide

By Su Wei

Tucked away on the border of Northern Guizhou, Eastern Sichuan and Western Hunan is a tiny region where visitors can immerse themselves in the ancient culture of the Miao people. Its ancient name was Zhen'gan but now it is called Fenghuang.

Fenghuang is home to over 200 villages of the Miao people. There are about 500 blockhouses and 200 barracks in the area dating from the Tang Dynasty. They played an important role in the famous struggles between the Miao people and the Han. The Great Wall of South China built in the Ming Dynasty and the ancient city of Huangsiqiao are also nearby.

Fenghuang is revered as the birthplace of literary master Shen Congwen and the well-known painter Huang Yongyu. During the daytime, many passenger boats go up the river to Tingtaoshan, Shen Congwen's graveyard. There are



Shibanzhai village sits at the foot of a mountain; it's made largely of great slabs of stone.

old stilted houses under the shade of the willow trees here, which are connected by corridors.

In the early morning, Tuojiang River, flowing along the north side of Fenghuang, is a haven for the Miao women. While the men are still snoozing, they gather at the riverside to wash clothes. It's a peaceful scene, with the splashing water, the women chatting and the sound of them beating the clothes.

One of the villages in the area is

Experience Western Hunan

Shibanzhai, which sits at the foot of a mountain and is made largely of great slabs of stone. It seems reminiscent of a distant stone age. The 4000 meter long flagstone streets connecting every block and lane date back to the Yuan and Ming dynasties. Few young people can be seen in the village. There are mainly old women wearing the traditional blue Miao clothes, taking care of babies, making shoes and



The stilted houses along the river

belts, or sitting in front of a spinning wheel. Tourists are welcome to come and see their simple houses which are nearly empty but for a wooden table, several wooden stools and a large bed hidden by a curtain.

After dusk falls, when strolling across Hong Qiao bridge, located near the Eastern Gate Tower, a bright moon will light up Dongling hill and the nearby villages with their trees and stilted houses. People are out in the streets until the deep night, especially at the Dongzheng and Nanzheng market streets. Here local products are on offer, such as silk, traditional clothes and even the special local table salt. There are also many ornaments on sale, such as silver rings, necklaces and bracelets.

When darkness falls complete-



Wanming Pagoda overlooks Tuojiang River.

Photos by Su Wei

ly, the old stone streets seem to be a world belonging to opera fans. City dwellers, young or old, men or women, perform the luo-

tang or yong opera. Sounds of gongs, fiddles and the singing spread throughout the streets and lanes.